

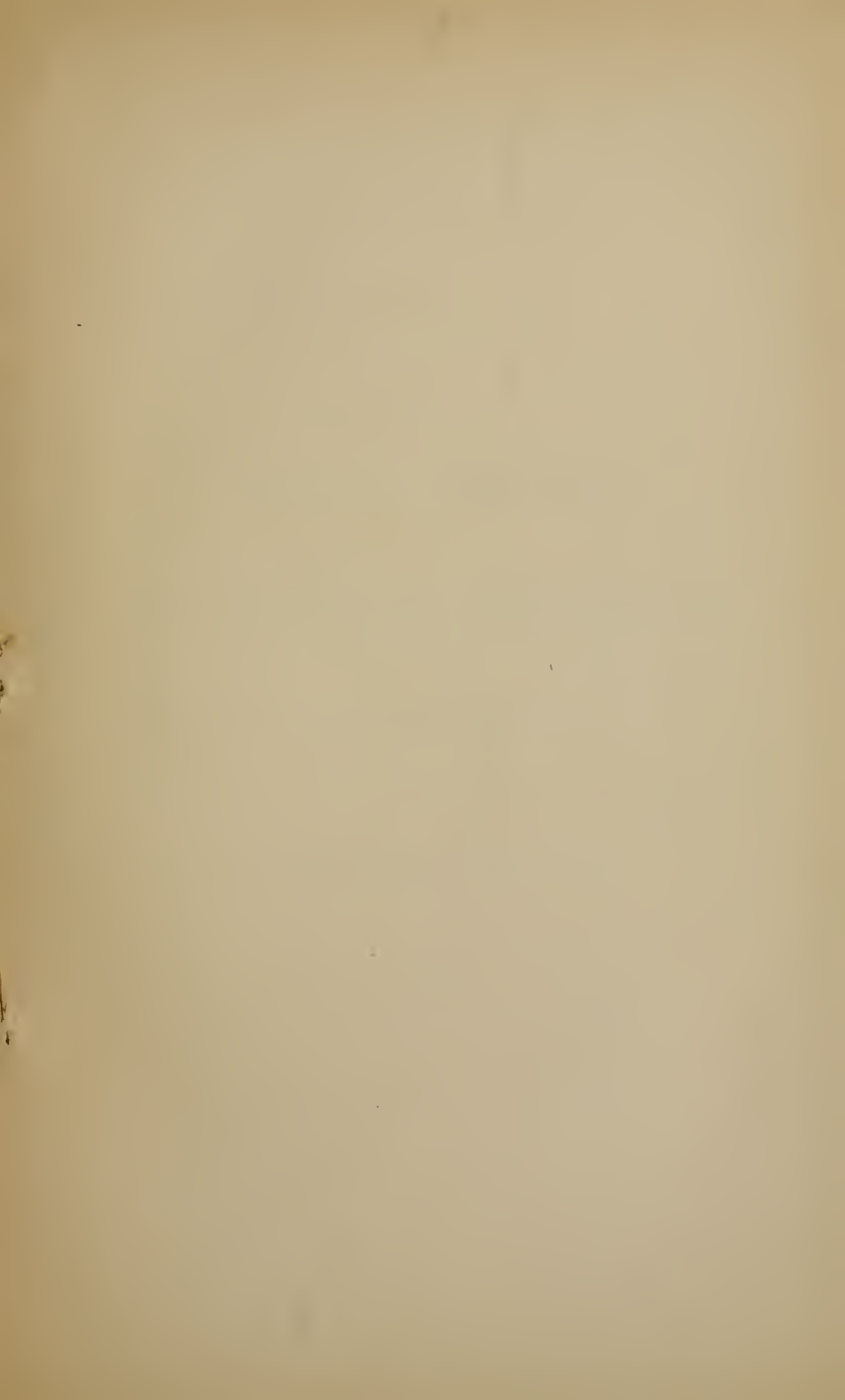
CAYUGA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

NUMBER EIGHT.

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COLLECTIONS  
OF  
CAYUGA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN, N. Y.

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NUMBER EIGHT

1890.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY COPIES.

NUMBER

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At the regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society held January 14, 1890 :

By Mr. Seward :

*Resolved,* That the next publication of the Society be the *Record of Current Events*, prepared by B. B. Snow.

## CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION.

We, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, residing within the County of Cayuga and State of New York, and being also citizens of the State of New York, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, do hereby associate ourselves and form a corporation, pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes of the State of New York, known as chapter 267, of the laws of 1875, as amended by chapter 53 of the laws of 1876.

The name by which such corporation shall be known in law, is "THE CAYUGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY."

Said corporation is formed for social, literary and historical purposes, and the particular business and objects thereof, shall be the discussion of general and local history, and the discovery, collection and preservation of the historical records of Cayuga County, aforesaid, comprising books, newspapers, pamphlets, maps and genealogies; and also of paintings, relics and any articles or materials which may or shall illustrate the growth or progress of society, religion, education, literature, art, science, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and the trades and professions within the United States, and especially within the County of Cayuga, and State of New York.

The principal office and place of business of said Society, shall be in the city of Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y.

The said corporation shall be managed by seven trustees. The names of said trustees for the first year of existence of said corporation, are, Benjamin B. Snow, Blanchard Fosgate, James D. Button, Lewis E. Carpenter, David M. Dunning, John H. Osborne, and J. Lewis Grant, all of Auburn, N. Y.

It is hereby intended to incorporate an association heretofore existing under the name of "The Cayuga County Historical Society," but heretofore unincorporated.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, the 23d day of January, 1877.

CHARLES HAWLEY, [L. s.]

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, [L. s.]

JAMES D. BUTTON, [L. s.]

B. B. SNOW, [L. s.]

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OTIS M. GODDARD, [L. s.]



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D. M. DUNNING, [L. s.]	GEO. R. PECK, [L. s.]
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C. J. REED, [L. s.]	GORTON W. ALLEN, [L. s.]
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD, [L. s.]	W. H. CARPENTER, [L. s.]
NELSON B. ELDRED, [L. s.]	F. P. TABER, [L. s.]

STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
 Cayuga County. } ss.

On the first day of February, 1877, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county: Charles Hawley, William H. Seward, James D. Button, Blanchard Fosgate, Benjamin B. Snow, John S. Clark, Franklin L. Griswold, John H. Osborne, William A. Baker, David M. Dunning, Lewis E. Carpenter, Dennis R. Alward, Joseph W. Dunning, Horace J. Knapp, Alonzo G. Beardsley, Jr., Silas L. Bradley, Charles J. Reed, Nelson B. Eldred, David M. Osborne, Otis M. Goddard, Byron C. Smith, Charles A. Smith, John Underwood, George R. Peck, John T. M. Davie, James Seymour, Jr., David H. Armstrong, Frank P. Taber, Ed. S. Newton and A. W. Lawton, to me personally known to be thirty of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged that they executed the same.

CHARLES M. BAKER,  
*Notary Public, Cayuga County.*

CAYUGA COUNTY, ss.

On the 2d day of February, 1877, personally appeared before me, Samuel W. Duffield, Gorton W. Allen and William H. Carpenter, to me known to be three of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged the execution thereof.

CHARLES M. BAKER,  
*Notary Public.*

The undersigned, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, for the Seventh Judicial District of the State of New York, hereby consents to and approves of the filing of the foregoing certificate.

Dated Auburn, N. Y., February 2, 1877.

CHARLES C. DWIGHT,  
*Jus. Sup. Ct. 7th Jud. Dist. S. N. Y.*

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DAVID M. OSBORNE.*	DR. W. S. CHEESMAN.

\* Deceased.

† Removed from city.



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REV. TIMOTHY G. DARLING.	

\* Deceased.

† Removed from city.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

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The literary exercises of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Society were held upon invitation at the residence of the President, Gen. William H. Seward, on the 18th day of February, 1890.

Papers were read by Rev. Prof. W. J. Beecher, David M. Dunning, B. B. Snow and President Seward, after which the members of the Society and their friends were generously entertained by the President and Mrs. Seward with characteristic hospitality.

RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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A SERIES OF PAPERS,

READ BEFORE THE CAYUGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

1877-'78.

BY B. B. SNOW.

## LE RAISON D'ÊTRE.

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At a meeting of the Historical Society, held April  
10, 1877.

*Resolved,* That Mr. Snow be invited to keep a memorandum of the local events of the vicinity for three months, and read the same monthly to the Society.

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., April 11, 1877.

*My Dear Dr. Schliemann:*

It is due to you that you be introduced to the Cayuga County Historical Society, as the explorer in a remote future age, delving among the ruins of a long forgotten city, whose researches have been rewarded by the discovery of this document, in deciphering which, you will, I fear, gratify a curiosity rather than reap a benefit.

It is due to the Society, to say to you, that it is organized for the purpose of gathering up fragments of local history, of the near, or remote past, and preserving them for the curious eye of posterity, and in furtherance of this object, the writer hereof has been designated to keep, for a limited period, a record of current events, as an experiment in the way of preserving local history. If therefor you should succeed in unearthing no document of this nature of a date subsequent to this, you may rightly infer that the experiment proved a failure.

It may not be amiss to state, that this document is attempted to be expressed in the chirography at present in use among us as a people, and would be intelligible to the average expert of our day. It may encourage you in your task of attempting to decipher it to know that we of the present day are striving to interpret the meaning of certain hieroglyphics and cuneiform inscriptions which have come to us from an age as distant in the past, as you are remote from us in the future.

By way of excuse for the meagre amount of information which my paper contains, I may state that our field of labor is limited to the County of Cayuga, which is reported in the census of 1875 as having a population of 61,213. The immediate scene of our operations is the city of Auburn, which by the same census shows a population of 18,359,—1,425 of whom are today reported as inmates of a penal institution located here, known as the State Prison at Auburn. Our sphere of observation being so limited, I fear that the chief variety in my daily record will be in its recital of weather changes, except as I may glean an item, from time to time, from the outside world.

Having thus, in a preliminary way, put ourselves in communication, and, as I trust, established a pleasant understanding, I proceed to the task whereunto I have been nominated.

My record commences with Wednesday the 11th day of April in the year 1877 of the Christian Era, a bright cloudless day whose warm sunshine is tempered by a cool air from the north. Many of the streets are quite dusty and the last vestiges of the winter's ice are being *picked* up and carted off from our main street. The robins and bluebirds have been for some days our guests, and vegetation shows the near approach of spring. The assessors have commenced their annual round and bask in the sunshine at our front gates, ruminating upon the value of our earthly possessions as compared with last year. The street-sprinkler today assumes its office for the season and true to its well known propensity scatters most water where least is needed,—on the cross-walks. The event of the morning is the definite announcement that Noah P. Clark, Esq., has been appointed Postmaster of the city, an announcement which had been previously made, but which began to be regarded with distrust by many, for the reason that the appointment had been for some cause or other held in abeyance.

The report reaches us in the afternoon, of the burning of the Southern Hotel at St. Louis early this morning, whereby several lives were lost.

A Baseball Association is organized in the evening with Mr. Charles P. Burr as President, preparatory to a series of the National game during the coming season.

WEDNESDAY, April 12th. Today is the twin of yesterday, bright, cool and beautiful, the temperature slightly lower and the north wind somewhat more vigorous.

The "first shad of the season" in our local market is reported today. Potatoes are quoted at \$1.50 per bushel which is high for potatoes. The fact should rend the bosom of the potato-bug with remorse.

A farmer from one of the southern towns reports that farmers are sowing spring wheat along the shore of Cayuga Lake. Reports are also current of the disastrous effects of the dry weather and frosty nights upon winter wheat. It is hoped however that a partial crop will be secured from the lowlands, if the rust and the weevil shall not prove too destructive.

FRIDAY, April 13th. Another bright day, calmer and somewhat milder than yesterday, succeeds a frosty night. This is the seventh successive unclouded day.

Mrs. Alice B. Beardsley, relict of Hon. John Beardsley, and the mother of Nelson, Alonzo G., and Wm. C. Beardsley, died in this city, this morning aged 91 years.

Rev. J. W. Duffield, who has for some months past, officiated as pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, was last evening extended a call to the pastorate by the congregation.

The public schools close for a vacation of two weeks. The Rev. George J. (or George W.) Mingins of some note as an evangelist, lectured on Temperance at the Opera House in the evening. The admission fee of twenty-five cents, doubtless operated to limit the extensive diffusion of the important truths presented.

SATURDAY, April 14th. Still another bright day. Extensive fires are reported as raging in the woods in the vicinity of Roundout, Ulster County, while snow is reported "two feet

deep" in Delaware County, the result of recent snow storms. Reports from Atlanta, Ga., speak of the continuous rains as interfering with planting.

Mr. D. M. Osborne returned today from a brief trip to Europe. A fine display of Aurora Borealis occurred in the evening.

SUNDAY, April 15th. A calm, bright day of sunshine with light fleecy clouds in the early afternoon. The merest toy of a new moon was penciled in the blue of the western sky in the early evening.

MONDAY, April, 16th. The sun rose to an unclouded sky this morning (as I am informed) with the wind from the south. A curtain of light clouds soon intervened, indicating a disposition to rain. The clouds thickened as the day wore on, and in the afternoon the wind veered round to the northwest, a score of diminutive rain-drops fell, and that was all.

The body of Mr. George L. Thompson, who was mysteriously lost overboard from the steamer Frontenac in Cayuga Lake on the 27th of October last, was discovered floating in the lake yesterday near Union Springs by a Mrs. Whittlesey, who receives the promised reward of \$100 for the recovery of the body. The Common Council met in the evening but transacted no important business.

A party of nineteen adventurers started from this city today to settle at Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

TUESDAY, April 17th. Another bright, warm day. A few clouds skirmish around the horizon but keep a safe distance from the sun.

The long expected Tweed disclosures are reported today. Cayuga County attains some notoriety thereby, as the Senator from this district heads the list of those who are charged with yielding to the persuasiveness of the "Boss's" ducats. One of the evening papers contains an account of a violent assault, with supposed intent to rob Mr. John Elliott of this city, at the Aurelius station, on the Central railroad last evening.



WEDNESDAY, April 18th. The clouds gathered courage during the night and took full possession of the sky which they hold today. A light rain commenced about noon, continuing at intervals until four o'clock when it set in steadily and continued during the night.

Senator Woodin fully and vigorously denied in the Senate last evening, the charges in Tweed's disclosures so far as related to himself, and asked for a committee of investigation, which was accorded him.

A grand regimental ball under the auspices of the 49th Regiment, was given at the Armory in the evening. The first frog of the season is heard tonight. There is a rare and peculiar odor of spring in this peep and purl of the first frog, if sound may be properly said to convey an odor. It comes unexpectedly and still not a surprise, in the early shade of some evening, when you feel in the air the warmth of renewing life. Then from the swamps and lowlands arises the loud, clear trill of this green-jacketed batrachian, not sharp, nor shrill, nor varied, but homophonous and prolonged as if he had done nothing during the long sleep of winter, but compress air into his limited reservoir, to pour forth in a madrigal, just before the first warm spring shower. It arouses boyhood memories of the stories we read, of "The Boy and the Frogs," with the captivating woodcut accompanying, all which incited unmistakable tinglings of conscience, for what well regulated boy ever withstood the temptation of poking stones at a frog; of superstitions entertained, that "the cow would give bloody milk" if we killed a frog, while driving her from the pasture; of the fable of the frogs who wanted a king; and the like. The engagement of the minstrel is for a few days only, however. I mistrust that he is at this season of the year, a minnesinger, and pours his canticle into the not unwilling ear of some demure, large eyed maiden frog, who wooed and won, the cares of domestic life leave little time for, and possibly repress the inclination to indulge in the

pastimes of his buoyant celibacy. Much more might be said about the frog, but I forbear. Extensive fires are reported in the woods near Scranton, Pa.

THURSDAY, April 19th. Still raining, which interferes with plowing and getting in spring crops. It helps grass wonderfully however and we console ourselves with the reflection that if the wheat crop fail, and bread be scarce, we shall have plenty of butter. The rain abated about noon, but a little after ten in the evening a short, sharp thunder shower came over from the southwest—the first of the season.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher lectured to a large audience at the Opera House in the evening, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. Subject, "The Ministry of Wealth."

A special meeting of the Common Council was held in the evening to designate polling places for the approaching election of School Commissioners.

FRIDAY, April 20th. A considerable fog in the morning, cool, with a misty rain. The day continued cloudy with low temperature, the thermometer standing at 44 at 4 P. M.

Chester Fanning an old resident of this city died today aged 84 years.

The President issues the order for the removal of United States troops from New Orleans on Tuesday next at 12 M.

SATURDAY, April 21st. Cooler and more unpleasant than yesterday. Thermometer 40°. A dull rain from the northwest with an occasional snowflake sifting through, prevails, instead of the "warmer and pleasant" which the indications predict for the "lower lake region." The clouds break away about noon, the temperature rises and the day shades off into a cloudless, starlit evening.

In the absence of any local events of importance, it may be proper to mention the fact that well founded rumors of an

impending war between Russia and Turkey have caused a material advance in breadstuffs. Oswego reports an advance of \$2.00 per barrel in flour. It is quoted in this city at \$11.00 with a rising tendency. Three comets are reported by astronomers as visible at present.

Mr. Tweed declined to respond to the inquiries of the Woodin investigating committee. He seems disposed to preserve an armed neutrality in the pending controversy.

SUNDAY, April 22nd. A warm cloudless day. Corydon H. Merriman, for many years cashier of the Bank of Auburn, and since the decease of James S. Seymour, president thereof, died today, at Canandaigua, of disease of the heart, aged 69 years. Mr. Merriman had been at Canandaigua for some months under treatment for an affection of the brain.

MONDAY, April 23rd. Another bright warm day. The flags are flying in commemoration of St. George's day. The St. George's Society parade in the afternoon and have a social gathering in the evening. The Common Council meet in the evening and discuss the Aurelius Avenue Bridge.

Daniel Dean, a pauper from Moravia, at the County poor-house committed suicide by hanging. Cause, financial embarrassment.

TUESDAY, April 24. A bright warm morning, but cooler and cloudy in the afternoon with rain from the northwest.

Russia today formally declared war against Turkey and commenced advancing troops into Roumania.

In accordance with the President's order the United States troops in New Orleans were today returned to their barracks.

WEDNESDAY, April 25th. A cool, clear day. The funeral of Mr. C. H. Merriman was largely attended at the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Hawley officiating.

A mass Temperance meeting was held at the Court House in the evening, at which a permanent organization was effected.

THURSDAY, April 26th. A bright day but with cool north wind. No event of interest has come to my notice today.

FRIDAY, April 27th. The sky is slightly overcast today but the air is milder. A wayward sister named Jennie A. Olin alias Belle Stoddard, aged 18, residing on Nelson street, committed suicide in the evening by shooting herself, incited thereto by the failure of one Charles Johnson to reciprocate her attachment.

State Commander General James Tanner, G. A. R., lectured at the Opera House, under the auspices of Seward Post, for the benefit of the Bath Soldiers' Home, subject "True Blue." About \$300 was realized.

SATURDAY, April 28th.—Rainy much of the day. A heavy shower from the south in the evening accompanied with a high wind. The announcement is made that the Rev. Charles Hawley, D. D., of this city, has been selected as a delegate to the Presbyterian council appointed to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland during the approaching summer.

Three lunatics scaled the wall and escaped from the Prison Asylum in the afternoon.

SUNDAY, April 29th.—Warmer with alternate sunshine and shadow. St. Mary's church (Catholic) on Clark street was dedicated today. Bishop McQuaid of Rochester conducted the ceremonies, assisted by Bishops Lynch of Charleston, S. C. and Ryan of Buffalo. Bishop Lynch preached the dedicatory sermon.

The village of Canajoharie was nearly destroyed by fire early in the morning. By the falling of the walls of the burning Novelty works building, this morning, at Montreal, Canada, nine fireman were killed and ten seriously injured. Ex-Senator Wm. Gannaway Brownlow, familiarly known as Parson Brownlow died at Knoxville, Tennessee, aged 72.

MONDAY, April 30th.—Slightly cloudy and cool. A fire started in the basement of a store in the Auburn House block, early in the morning which was extinguished with little damage.

Two of the lunatic convicts who escaped Saturday were captured and returned to the Asylum this morning.

The public schools re-opened after a two weeks vacation.

TUESDAY, May 1st.—A cold sour May day, with slight snow in the early morning. Thermometer 42°.

Office of the Board of Education removed from the Seward Block to the High School building. The National Exchange Bank removed from the Colonnade Block to the Auburn Savings Bank Building. Postmaster Clark assumes the duties of his position designating Mr. H. B. Gilbert as assistant. A party of ten left for the Black Hills in search of Gold.

The Chief of Police reports 51 arrests for the month of April, 40 of which were for drunkenness. 243 tramps were afforded lodging in the station house during the month, a fact not so much due to the excellence of the accommodations, as to the indifference of the tramp in view of his necessities.

Orrin Hughitt, formerly resident of this city, and father of Judge Wm. E. Hughitt, died of paralysis at Dryden, aged 72 years.

WEDNESDAY, May 2nd.—Cold and windy with alternate cloud and sunshine, thermometer ranging from 44° to 52° falling in the evening, followed by a sharp freeze during the night. A fine display of Aurora was visible in the evening extending at times far beyond the zenith. The first hand-organ of the season pours forth its feeble and broken strain upon the ear of the way-farer today. I notice that the hand-organ delays its advent since the decease and exodus of our local artists in that line. Time was, when even in the depth of winter, the "Irish Washerwoman" and kindred melodies were ground out to regale the listening ear. *Tempora mutantur.*

THURSDAY, May 3rd.—Cold, clear and dry with somewhat of wind from the northwest. The dwelling house of John Swart, 117 West VanAnden street was partially destroyed by fire early

in the morning, supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The first harp of the season responded to the touch of a swarthy Italian upon our streets today.

FRIDAY, May 4th.—The sky is overcast in the morning, a slight rain having fallen during the night. A dry brisk wind from the northwest soon arose sweeping the clouds away, and a bleak, dusty day followed. The Texas excursionists, of whom mention was made some days since, are, one by one returning, content to endure Auburn for a time longer.

SATURDAY, May 5th.—The wind still holds in a cold quarter. It seems to be coquetting with May, coyly edging around towards the warm south, until it reaches due west, when it trips away back to the northeast and again to the northwest dallying with the currents from the frozen lakes of the north; it visits us dry and cool, sadly trying our patient waiting for winter to leave the lap of spring.

The Seymour Library association held its first annual meeting since its organization today.

The President issues a proclamation for an extra session of congress, on the fifteenth day of October next.

A decline of one dollar per ton in the retail price of coal is advertised today to take effect Monday. This makes the price of stove coal five dollars per ton which is said to be the lowest figure reached in our local market for twenty years. I notice sweet potatoes in market today for the first time this season.

SUNDAY, May 5th.—Still the same chill, dry wind cooling the warmth of the sunshine. The trees seem to be holding back their foliage preparatory to a sharp "spurt" when the proper time comes. The elms, willows, maples and a few coniferous trees are in blossom, while the horse-chestnut can scarcely clench its impatient leaves tight enough to conceal the wealth of verdure which the brown buds enclose. Besides the earlier spring birds the fussy little chatterbox, the wren, today is with us, and

this morning I saw for the first a stranger to me—a bird about as large as the song sparrow, evidently purely insectivorous, of a bluish brown plumage as to its neck and back, with yellow spots on the back of its head, at the outer base of its wings, and at the base of the tail. I queried whether it might not be some familiar friend who had disguised himself by donning the yellow spots, in deference to the prevailing fashionable partiality for yellow decoration. I notice the re-appearance within the past few days of the little yellowish fly, whose progeny is so destructive to the currant and gooseberry foliage, searching diligently for a leaf upon which to deposit its eggs. The gooseberry is sufficiently advanced for his purposes but the currant baffles him. An occasional white butterfly, whose larvæ are so destructive to our cabbage and cauliflower, is also to be seen wabbling around over flowering hyacinths, etc., and even the stolid potato-bug is said to be massing his forces for a vigorous summer campaign.

MONDAY, May 7th.—Ambitious sweet corn was severely rebuked by the frost last night, but the Sunday evening wooing of May with the north wind won it around to the west and the morning opens clear and milder. The first swallow of the season flits through the air this morning with its feeble chirp, and dandelions in bloom for the first, today enliven sunny slopes. A local paper reports cherry trees in blossom but I am unable to verify the report after careful search. The Commencement exercises of the Theological seminary occur this week opening with the examinations today. The May Circuit Court commenced its session this morning, with Justice George W. Rawson presiding.

The Common Council met in the evening and discussed learnedly and long the Aurelius Avenue bridge and a new engine house for "Hose 6," and other matters of minor importance. At a meeting of the Trustees of the Seymour Library association Judge C. C. Dwight was elected President of the association for the ensuing year.

TUESDAY, May 8th.—The morning opens with the wind due east, the sky slightly overcast and indications of rain at no distant day. The canal opens today by official appointment. The first professional base ball game of the season took place between the Crickets of Binghamton and the new Auburn club at Seward Avenue park resulting in a score of 6 to 2 in favor of the visiting club.

The wind held steadily in the east most of the day, but veered round to the north towards sunset with stronger indications of rain. The Rev. T. J. Duryea, D. D., of Brooklyn addressed the society of missionary inquiry at the First Presbyterian church in the evening in connection with the Theological Seminary commencement exercises.

The Cayuga County Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting in the evening. The paper announced from Dr. Briggs was postponed until the next regular meeting.

And here My Dear Doctor, ends my mingled web of fact and fancy for the month. If the period had been more fruitful of incident, I should have indulged less freely in fancy and my record would have possessed more of sober historical dignity. So regretting the barrenness of my history, I apologize for the fruitfulness of my fancy.

Very truly Yours,  
B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*



## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., May 9, 1877.

*My Dear Dr. Schliemann :*

It was with no little trepidation, that I presented to our Historical Society last evening, the record of our first month's history, which I had prepared for your reading. The familiar relations which I felt established between you and myself, led me into a freedom of expression, which I fear bordered upon garrulousness, and did not well comport with the society's idea of a sober historical narrative. Still as no severe criticism was openly expressed, I venture to resume my record for the coming month. The suggestion was made that a record of the temperature for each day be embodied in the report, a suggestion of which I gladly avail myself, as it will afford me at least one item of news for each day, without any considerable effort at research. For the future then the state of the temperature for each day at one o'clock P. M. will be given.

The morning opens with the wind in the northeast, and with a slight haze. I notice the presence of martins for the first this morning, but they probably came a day or two earlier. Gov. Robinson yesterday vetoed the act conferring upon women the privilege of serving as school officers. Thermometer 58° at 1 P. M. A brisk cool north wind in the afternoon and quite dusty. Fears are expressed for the safety of the steamship "City of Brussels," which sailed from New York, April 21, and has not since been heard from. The County Medical

Society met at the Court House. An explosion of coal damp in the Wadesville mine near Pottsville, Pa., resulted in the death of seven miners. Prof. Gardner, the soap man, addressed a large audience at the Court House in the evening, on Temperance, and in the commencement exercises of the Theological Seminary, Prof. R. B. Welch addressed the society of the Alumni at the First Church.

THURSDAY, May 10.—Cloudy, wind north, with a slight sprinkle in the morning. Thermometer, 45° at 1 P. M. The larvæ of the currant fly begin to show ravages on gooseberry leaves. The Woodin Investigating committee present their report, completely exonerating Mr. Woodin from any complicity with Tweed's crookedness, closing with the statement that the charges not only failed to be substantiated but were disproved by the evidence. The Senate unanimously adopted the report.

The Philadelphia permanent exhibition in the main building of the Centennial Exhibition, opened today. The exercises of the graduating class of the Theological Seminary took place in the evening, the graduates numbering fifteen.

Rheumatic pains meander through sensitive limbs and petulant molars try the patience of their much enduring possessors, indicating that we are within the neuralgic radius of a storm.

FRIDAY, May 11.—Although the wind continues north-west and the sky is overcast, the weather shows a disposition to conciliate. Thermometer 56° at 1 P. M. W. B. Lynch, late of Auburn, is reported to have been drowned by the upsetting of a boat at Lakeville, Iowa, on the 6th inst. The walls of a new Court House in process of erection at Rockford, Ill., fell today, killing twelve workmen and wounding several more.

Base-ball interest today centers in a game between the Live Oaks of Lynn and the Auburn Club, the latter scoring one run and the visiting club three.

The Trustees of the Seymour Library Association, at a meeting held in the evening, selected Miss Martha A. Bullard for Librarian. I notice the magnolia (white) in bloom today for the first time this season.

SATURDAY, May 12.—Clear and warmer with the wind from the west. I notice this morning the first appearance of the little greenish yellow bird, which is such an adept in picking the insects and worms from the under side of leaves. I do not know its name. Also another bird, a stranger to me, in shape and plumage much like the cat bird, but much smaller. Thermometer 68°, cherry trees, currant and gooseberry bushes are slowly struggling into bloom. The Auburn nine scored three runs to five for the Live Oaks. At the convention for the nomination of School Commissioners held in the evening, Messrs Davie, Perry, Moses and Trowbridge were nominated.

SUNDAY, May 13.—Wind west, and clear in the morning, followed by scattered clouds and north wind at noon, and a slight haze the remainder of the day. Thermometer 67°. Chimney swallows first appeared this morning, and I notice the apple tree worm spinning its web preparatory to a raid upon the yet unopened leaf.

Edwin R. Gridley died today, aged 61 years. He was a genial man, a "fellow of infinite jest," but his life's afternoon lay more in shadow than in sunshine.

MONDAY, May 14th.—Wind south working around to the west at noon. Thermometer 76°. Dry, warm and slightly hazy. The steamship, City of Brussels is heard from today, working her way across the Atlantic under sail, having broken her shaft when two days out from New York. The Bob-o-link comes today. A New England poet announces his coming there in June thus,

Sunshine, winged and voiced,  
Gladness of woods, skies, waters, all in one,  
The Bob-o-link has come.

In base ball, the Alleghenies of Pittsburgh score seven to two for the Auburn club. A sleepy looking new moon lay cradled in the haze of the west in the early evening. Another wayward sister named Cora Arnold, aged 17 years sought the sleep that knows no waking, by taking laudanum. She was restored by the timely resort to electricity.

TUESDAY, May 15th.—Wind south, and hazy. The cherry trees are in full bloom, and of course the Oriole comes. The Oriole makes no mistakes. The other spring birds, in their zeal to secure eligible sites for nesting or other cause, not unfrequently have occasion to regret their early advent, sleeping cold o' nights and hungering because of the snow covered ground. But the Oriole watches his season. He waits till the cherry "dressed for bridal" shall welcome him, and some warm May morning, wafted upon the balmy south wind, he bursts upon us with his loud clear notes, "a glance of summer fire," and then we may be assured that spring has come. His advent is as distinctive as that of the first thunder shower, and no matter what rumors may prevail as to his having been seen by careless observers, you will always find the blossoming of the cherry tree and the coming of the Oriole to be co-incident. He is seven days later this year than last.

The election of school commissioners occurred today, Messrs Davie, Moses and Perry being the successful candidates. Thermometer 77°, the wind varying during the day from south to northwest and back. New potatoes, said to be from Bermuda, and green peas are in market, each commanding one dollar per peck. Extensive fires are reported in the woods of Clinton county, in Canada and in Massachusetts. In the evening the first mosquito of the season drones its monotonous hum about my ears, as I sit reading, and a June bug attracted by my light, blunders through the open window, bumps around against the ceiling, rattles down the wall to the floor, rests a moment, then gathers himself and whirs straight for my light. After several

ineffectual efforts, I succeed in bringing him to the floor with my folded newspaper, when I gather him up and throw him out through the window. A June bug is always an object of special interest in church, during the evening service, more particularly to the younger portion of the congregation, and I have noticed that the officiating clergyman is not always quite at ease when the visitor approaches his domain. Perhaps I ought not to have devoted so much space to these insects, neither of them being historical, and so far as my reading extends not mentioned either in sacred or profane history, for which reason, however, I may be pardoned for impaling them upon this page.

WEDNESDAY, May 16th.—A slight sprinkle of rain last evening, and this morning the wind is northwest, cloudy, but warm, and a muggy forenoon succeeds. Thermometer 82°. A mild shower from the southwest of short duration at 2 P. M. Pear and plum trees are in bloom today. The circuit court adjourned this morning. A sharp thunder shower accompanied with wind at 6 P. M.

THURSDAY, May 17th.—A fresh morning with wind from the south and light clouds. Somewhat sultry, with thermometer at 79°. A fine steady light rain set in about 2 o'clock. The first cucumber of local growth aspired to enrich a grocer, to the extent of fifteen cents.

FRIDAY, May 18th.—Wind south, clear and warm. The cat-bird comes this morning, noiseless and mysterious looking as an evil spirit. When he has found an old nest for his mate, he will be more communicative. Thermometer 86°, warm and sultry with a strong wind from the south. A hail storm visits New England, and a tornado sweeps across the lower Hudson, destroying five ice houses in its course. In local base ball, the Athletics score six and the Auburns four.

SATURDAY, May 19th.—Warm and clear. Wind northwest, and thermometer 81°. Early in the season, I noticed a little

speckled woodpecker industriously pecking away at the dead limb of an apple tree in my garden, preparing a place for his nest. I anticipated much pleasure of my new neighbor, and was not a little disappointed when I found that a plucky little wren had ejected him and appropriated the fruits of his labors. The wren had scarcely completed his household arrangements, when an English sparrow coveting the snug retreat, perched himself upon a limb in front of the opening, and hour after hour, day in and day out, kept up his incessant peep. The wren scolded and twittered and fluttered at his stolid aggressor, but all to no purpose, until at length I interfered and stoned the sparrow away. Misapprehending my motive, the wren left also, and now there is a house to let in that hollow limb. I confess to a dislike for sparrows—they never come—they are always here. If they would migrate somewhere, for nine months of the year, they might be tolerable for the other three months. There is nothing birdlike in their song, it is about as musical and not unlike the peep of a lost chicken, except as it is varied into a chatter when they wrangle among themselves. They are scavengers and their looks and ways partake of their occupation. There is nothing airy or buoyant in their flight,—they fly to get out of the way, as a flying fish, or a winged toad might. I notice that three or four families of them have built characteristic nests in the tops of the elms, at the corner of Garden and North streets. The nests look as if a freshet had visited some storm-exposed meadow, and had swept off the hay-cocks, to lodge them in the tops of the trees. The nests appear to be covered over, and all of them, whether by chance or design, have their entrance or front door towards the west, from which I infer that the sparrow does not care to catch the first glimpse of the morning sun, the only positive indication of intelligence I have ever noticed in them. I have never observed their building in trees before, and I query whether this may not be a link in the process of evolution, and that a more intelligent

race of sparrows is to succeed. If such a race should be evolved, as shall arise to the dignity of destroying potato bugs, I might be reconciled to them.

SUNDAY, May 20th.—A slight rain during the night. Slightly cloudy in the early part of the day, but clear in the afternoon. Wind north and northeast. Thermometer, 79°. The first humming bird of the season appears, the apple trees being in full bloom. Horse chestnut trees are in nearly full leaf and in partial bloom, maples are well in foliage, elms are more backward, and lindens, locusts, and the mountain ash show only the beginnings of their summer verdure. The forests show only a slight tint of green on the brown background of their winter habit.

MONDAY, May 21st.—Wind south. A light rain set in at 8 A. M., continuing at intervals most of the day, clearing in the afternoon. Thermometer 68°. Common Council met in the evening and discussed the interests of Hose 3, 5 and 6, and sharply divided on the Aurelius Avenue bridge question.

News reaches us of the capture of Ardaban by the Russians, on Friday last, an important strategic point in Asia Minor. News from the seat of war comes to us slowly, possibly from the difficulty in transmitting Russian and Turkish names over the wires. Correspondents however state that little progress has been made by the invading Russians, on account of the unpropitious state of the weather. The fact is doubtless as stated, but the reason for it I conceive to be other than that given. When an advancing column is necessarily delayed two or three days before a city to acquire the pronunciation of its name, so as to determine whether it is the place they were instructed to capture, progress must necessarily be slow. There is a deep significance in the Russian strategy in Asia Minor, which I mistrust is not generally appreciated. It is this, that by first directing their efforts against cities of simple names, like Van and Kars, they may pave the way to cope with

Erzeroum and Ersingian, and so by gradual approaches, at length successfully contend with cities of the magnificent nominal proportions of Constantinople. I shall watch for the vindication of my theory with no little interest. I first noticed the kingbird today.

TUESDAY, May 22d.—Wind north, cooler and cloudy, with showers at intervals during the day. Thermometer 58°. At the launching of the steamship Saratoga, at Chester, Pa., seven workmen were killed. At a meeting of the Board of Education in the evening, O. F. Knapp, Esq., was elected president for the ensuing year.

WEDNESDAY, May 23rd.—Brisk north wind. Cool and clear, clouding up in the afternoon. Thermometer 53°. I first see young robins trying their pinions today. A cold rain in the evening, the mercury descending to 34°. Gov. Robinson calls an extra session of the Senate immediately upon the coming adjournment.

THURSDAY, May 24th.—Snow is reported this morning in various localities, and from 1½ to 2 inches deep in Spafford and Pompey, Onondaga Co. The morning opens cold and cloudy, with the wind northwest. Thermometer 50° at 1 P. M. The Legislature adjourns *sine die*. The Senate convenes in extra session immediately after adjournment, and adjourns to meet at Saratoga, July 13, to act upon the report of the committee in the case of bank Superintendent Ellis.

Among the important measures discussed during the session, and which failed of passage was the apportionment bill, providing for a reapportionment of the Legislative representation upon the basis of the census of 1875, and the act to encourage hens to lay eggs of uniform size, establishing one pound as the weight which all upright, fair dealing hens should be willing to put into a dozen eggs. The Legislature has been in session 130 days, the longest session on record under the 100 day limit.



FRIDAY, May 25th.—Wind northwest. Cool and cloudy in the morning. Thermometer 58°. In local base-ball, the Bostons score 3 runs to the Auburn's 1, which is encouraging to the friends of the Auburn nine. In the evening a temperance meeting is held at the Court House. Mrs. G. Osborn Letchworth gives readings at the Academy of Music and a Prof. Reynolds amuses an audience at the Opera House with experiments in mesmerism. Some tired looking, much-travelled string beans appear in market to day.

SATURDAY, May 26th.—Wind north. A clear fresh air, and slightly milder. Thermometer 67°. The Auburn nine triumph over a crack club from Rochester, with a score of 7 to 0, which greatly elates the Auburn admirers of the national game. I notice the prevalence of the pear tree blight this season, not the leaf blight, but the kind which strikes the body or a limb of the tree and sears it to certain destruction. A slight sprinkle of rain in the evening.

SUNDAY, May 27th.—Clear and pleasant, with wind from the north. Thermometer 68°. Albert L. Sisson, for several years Police Justice of the city, and at the time of his death holding disputed possession of the office, died today, aged nearly 35 years.

MONDAY, May 28th.—Wind southwest, clear and warm. Thermometer 76°. I notice the cherrybird today, also the Peewit or Phebebird which is a late comer I think. The inquiry into the lunacy of Watson Whittlesey ended today in the disagreement of the jury. The case has occupied four weeks lacking two days and has excited an unusual degree of interest. A fine display of the Aurora in the evening was somewhat dimmed by the light of a nearly full moon.

TUESDAY, May 29th.—Wind south, clear and warmer. Thermometer 80°. Southern strawberries are in market at 30 cents per quart. A public reception was given to Senator Woodin at

the Academy of Music, in the evening, Col. E. B. Morgan of Aurora, presiding. John L. Motley, the celebrated historian, died in London, aged 63 years. Fletcher Harper, the last of the "Harper Brothers," died today.

WEDNESDAY, May 30.—Decoration day. Wind west, clear and warm. Thermometer 81°. The customary exercises of Decoration Day were observed, and in the evening the exercises consisted of a poem by Rev. J. C. Long, of Union Springs, and an oration from Rev. S. W. Duffield. A largely witnessed game of base-ball in the afternoon resulted in a score of four for the Auburn club, to one for the Buckeyes. Deacon Silas W. Arnett died suddenly of apoplexy, aged 76. He was well known in our community as a man of decided convictions upon all the political, social, moral and religious questions of the day. His zeal and earnestness in advocating his views made him at times seem somewhat bellicose, and to some extent impaired his influence, but no one ever questioned his integrity of purpose. He was distinctively Deacon Arnett, not that he was the only Deacon in the city, or in his church, but he was one of the few to whom the title Deacon seems cognominal or patronymic. To have called him simply Mr. Arnett or Squire Arnett would have destroyed his individuality,—nobody would have recognized him, but as Deacon Arnett, he towered and was known of all men.

THURSDAY, May 31.—Wind west, and quite warm. Reports are received of a great tidal wave on the Pacific coast, following the earthquake of the night of May 9th, when the city of Iquique, on the coast of Peru and several other places were destroyed, with a loss of from 600 to 800 lives. Thermometer 83°. The average temperature since May 10th at one o'clock each day, has been  $69\frac{3}{4}$ °, the lowest being 45° May 10th, and the highest 86° May 18th. Lilies of the valley are in their prime and the wild azalea is in bloom.

FRIDAY, June 1st.—The day opens warm, clear and dry. A false alarm of fire occurred in the night. Thermometer 86°. An accident on the Lehigh Valley railroad, occasioned the loss of four lives and severely injured several passengers. The potato bug begins the deposit of eggs today. Francis Murphy, the Apostle of Temperance, addressed a small audience at the Opera House, an admission fee being charged.

SATURDAY, June 2nd.—Wind fresh from the southeast, and slightly hazy. Thermometer 86°. A slight sprinkle of rain in the afternoon. In base-ball, the Auburn club scored 4 and the Buckeyes 2.

SUNDAY, June 3rd.—Wind south, and a hazy atmosphere. A slight rain at 1 o'clock with thermometer at 74°. A fine mild shower occurred about 3 P. M. The mountain ash is in bloom, also the peonies and snowballs.

MONDAY, June 4th.—The morning opens with a mild westerly wind and subdued sunshine. Thermometer 71°. A tornado sweeps over Mt. Carmel, Ill., destroying several buildings and killing upwards of thirty persons. A waterspout sweeps down upon the northern part of Iowa. Extensive forest fires are reported in northern Michigan. The Common Council meet in the evening and order a "two arch stone bridge" across the Owasco outlet at Aurelius Ave.

TUESDAY, June 5th.—Wind south, cool and cloudy. Thermometer 61°. Today is calf day. As this is a local observance I should perhaps explain that the New York Central railroad sets apart Tuesday of each week, as the only day it will accept calves (of the quadrupedal species) as passengers. So with the early dawn of each Tuesday morning, the sufficiently fattened calf bids adieu to the green pastures and still waters of his nativity, and being assisted into the comfortable conveyance of his proprietor, takes his first and last ride, journeying to the Central depot, where he is transhipped for New York. In any

of the principal approaches to the city, this procession of calves may be seen of a Tuesday morning, each conveyance carrying from one to six or eight calves beside the driver, wending their way market-ward.

A cold easterly rain set in, in the afternoon. The Board of Education held its regular monthly session in the evening. Fred M. Terrill died today, after a lingering illness, aged 35 years.

WEDNESDAY, June 6th.—A northeast rain commenced early in the morning and continued until about 4 P. M. Thermometer 61°. Locust trees are in bloom today. A railroad accident occurred near Bath, in England today, by the giving away of a bridge of some thirty feet span, by which a dozen lives were lost. The Board of Education hold a special session in the evening and order a primary school house to be built, in district No. 1., in the rear of Seymour Chapel.

THURSDAY, June 7th.—A sullen morning after the rain, with stolen smiles of sunshine through the clouds. Wind north, and clearing in the afternoon. Thermometer 66°. The higher grades of the public school children indulge in the luxury of the regent's examination today and tomorrow. Two teams of the 49th Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., go to Syracuse to shoot at a mark, and take six prizes, including the first, whereupon their companions, who staid at home, receive them upon their return in the evening with music.

FRIDAY, June 8th.—A clear fresh air with light wind from the southeast. Thermometer 78°. Eleven persons are killed at Bridgeport, Ct., by the falling walls of a burning building. The Eries humble the pride of the Auburn nine, by a score of 4 to 3.

SATURDAY, June 9th.—Warm, with a brisk wind from the south which continues during the day, bringing a slight sprinkle in the evening. Thermometer 78°. I notice the chirrup of the cricket for the first time this season, last evening. It seemed to me early, as I have associated the cricket with the dry, cool,

dog-day evenings. The Auburns retaliate upon the Eries, in base-ball, with a score of 5 to 1. The board of education hold their annual teacher's examination today. Local strawberries color with resentment at the influx of carpet baggers from New Jersey and vicinity, and today the first invoice from Owasco is reported in market, prepared to carry on a war of extermination against all foreigners.

SUNDAY, June 10th.—The Sunday morning nap of our citizens was shortened by an alarm of fire about 7 o'clock A. M. The fire proved to be the dry-house of the Auburn Woolen mill, a detached building which was partially destroyed and considerable wool was damaged. Total loss about \$30,000. A heavy rain set in, in the morning continuing until about 10½ o'clock, clearing with a cool wind from the west. Thermometer 58°.

MONDAY, June 11th.—A clear, bright, fresh morning with wind from the southwest. Thermometer 65°. The eggs of the potato bug deposited a week ago last Friday, are hatching today, from which I infer that the "period of incubation" is about ten days. The bugs do not eat the leaf upon which they are hatched as does the currant worm, but crawling to the upper side of the leaf, they take a general survey of the situation and then make their way to the upper and tenderer leaves for breakfast. The newcomers are very voracious and are mainly destructive of the vines. I notice fresh looking green peas in market today for the first. I made some inquiries respecting them for the benefit of the Historical Society, and learned that they were raised in the town of Sennett, and are valued at one dollar per peck. This of course includes the pods. Considerable excitement prevails in base-ball circles today, on account of an attempt on the part of the Rochester sportsmen to entice away a portion of the Auburn nine. The attempt proved unsuccessful. I notice that the New York papers report the fire at the Woolen factory yesterday morning, as involving a loss of

\$100,000, adding that the main building was not insured, but omitting to state that it was not burned. This has led me to reflect whether some of the items I have culled from the papers may not have come through a similar magnifying medium and thus have impaired the reliability of my history. I trust not however.

James Russel Lowell is announced as having been tendered and having accepted the mission to Spain.

TUESDAY, June 12th.—Bright and cloudless in the morning with a fresh breeze from the south, clouding towards noon with indications of rain. Thermometer 78°. From the beautiful development of spring in our city, I had been led to believe that the season gave promise of an unusually abundant harvest. In conversation with Mr. Perrigo, however, a few days since, I learn that I am mistaken. He says that the cold dry winds of the early spring seriously impaired the growth of grass; that the wheat stalk is small; that spring sown grain suffered from the drouth, corn did not come up well, and the chances favor a very light crop of potatoes on account of the deprivations of the Colorado beetle. Mr. Perrigo is a granger.

An unusual degree of base-ball interest attended the game today, between the Syracuse Stars and the Auburn nine, in which the former were victors by a score of 5 to 4.

Burglars entered the house of Mr. Charles Standart about 2 o'clock this morning, and escaped with some \$350 booty and subsequently visited the house of Mr. Nelson Payne on the Sennett road north of the city, securing some \$90 additional booty. The mayor's veto of the Aurelius Avenue bridge project is made public today. The wind shifted to the northwest about 6 P. M., bringing rain with gusts of wind, and thunder in the distance.

And here my Dear Doctor, ends my second month's record. In glancing over it I find that I have omitted some incidents which I had intended to embody in it, but trusting them to

memory for a day, memory failed of its duty. It was in mind to note the day of the safe arrival of the City of Brussels at Liverpool, after a tedious voyage under sail across the Atlantic, also the date of the death of Dr. Taylor Lewis, a distinguished Professor in Union College, at the age of 75 years, and I think there were some other items which I do not recall. I have not before alluded to the fact that General Grant is being received by the nobility of England with more cordial and distinguished attention than has ever been accorded by them to any American citizen. Dignitaries are vying with each other for his presence at dinner, and tomorrow Oxford University is to confer upon him the distinguished honor of Doctor of Civil Law, and the day following he is to be accorded the freedom of the city of London, a prerogative which is held in high esteem by Englishmen, and an honor rarely bestowed.

I have occasionally given items of the Eastern war which has been slowly progressing. The principal scene of conflict thus far, has been in Asia Minor, where with varying success, the odds has been with the Russians, who are slowly investing Kars and Erzeroum. The beautiful blue Danube still rolls between the opposing armies in Europe, and it is beginning to be often questioned when the advance on Richmond will begin. The Czar has assumed command of the Russian army in person, with headquarters at Bucharest, chiefly it is asserted because the Grand Duke Nicholas and his chief of Staff, Gen. Nepokoitschitzky frequently disagree. Count Schouvaloff was made bearer of dispatches to the British Government, to the effect that it is not the intention of the Russians to fill up the Suez Canal, or otherwise interfere with it, which had a very soothing effect upon the British public. Such is the present status of affairs.

I ought somewhere to mention, and can perhaps nowhere better than here, the fact that local improvements in the way of building, or repairing in our city are quite limited this season.

Messrs. Schoonmaker and Perry have replaced a wooden structure on North street, with two comfortable brick stores; Mr. Jesse D. Smith is heroically putting an elaborate new front to his dry goods establishment on Genesee street, and the little wooden building on Genesee street for many years occupied by Dr. Robinson for an office, has given way to a more pretentious brick structure. Very few dwellings are attempted.

The general depression in business interests which has characterized the last three or four years, shows little sign of improvement. Largely depreciated values and reduced wages induce a stagnation in business from which the recovery is slow. As indicating that all classes of community are disposed to accept the situation and accommodate themselves to circumstances, I notice that the little red-haired Irishman who has formerly been in the habit of accosting me in the street, with the request for "tin cints to git me a bit of tobaccy wid," latterly shrewdly limits his petition to a "cint till I buys me a pipe wid." But I must close. Begging your indulgence for the unwarrantable length of my record, I remain,

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*



## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y. June 13, 1877.

*My Dear Dr. Schliemann:*

I approach the closing month of my stewardship in collating the current events of local history, with a pleasure which is not unmingled with regret; pleased to be relieved from the responsibility for giving prominence to facts and incidents of insignificant importance, or for omitting mention of more weighty matters which perhaps should have claimed my attention. I find, upon reviewing my record thus far, that it has been to a great extent a part of myself, which I think is true in a greater or less degree of the writings of all who write anything. I see that I might have morticed into the record a great many pieces of gnarled and knotted philosophy, but I have construed my mission as one rather of relaxation than of deep thought, hence the omission. The continuance of my task awaits me however, and I defer apologies to a more suitable occasion.

The morning opens bright and fresh, with the wind in the southwest. The Historical Society held its regular monthly session last evening, and listened to an interesting introductory paper by Dr. Lansingh Briggs, on "Medicine as a Science." The County Medical Society held its regular session at the Court House. Thermometer 78°, with a fresh wind from the south, during the day. The cornerstone of the Soldiers' Home at Bath, was laid today, the address being delivered by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. Auburn has contributed nearly

\$900 to this institution, through the efforts of Seward Post, G. A. R. The first strawberry festival of the season was twins this year, one being held at the Baptist Church and the other at the Methodist Church on Exchange street, in the evening, both of which were successes.

THURSDAY, June 14th.—Warm, with wind from the west. A fine shower early in the morning. The June Fair of the Cayuga County Agricultural Society commenced today, with a fine display of horses, cattle, and the usual attractions of an Agricultural Fair, except the horse trot, which gives place to a rifle match, on the plan of the National Guard matches. The 200 yard match, limited to re-idents of Cayuga County, was shot today, the first prize, a \$25 suit of clothes, being secured by Fred A. Wright. Thermometer 76°, with apparently heavy showers and wind in the south. Severe storms of rain and hail with high winds reported in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie. Two bridges were blown down near Northampton, Mass., resulting in the loss of two lives. The river boat, Dean Richmond, broke some part of her machinery, near Sing Sing, killing one passenger and badly frightening the others.

FRIDAY, June 15th.—A sultry morning with rising wind from the southwest, and rain areas hinted at by the official "Indications." Thermometer 86°. I note the prevalence of blight, destroying the fruit-bearing twigs of the late ripening varieties of pears, also of apple trees. I think I have heard this plague charged to insects. In local base ball, the Indianapolis club scored 3 to the Auburn club 2. The Fair continued today. In the rifle match the Oswego Regiment team secured the first prize, which was a Burdick Reaper, valued at \$160. A boy named Herbert Bard, was sunstruck while witnessing the match, his hair having been too closely mowed for the time of the year. He subsequently died. James W. Beekman, of New York, died today, aged 62 years. He was a prominent

member of the New York Historical Society, and an honorary member of this society.

SATURDAY, June 16th.—A dull, rainy morning succeeds a rainy night, with wind from the southwest. The annual examination of applicants for the Cornell University Scholarships is held today, two applicants only appearing, to neither of whom was a certificate awarded. The rain ceased about noon, with strong wind from the west. Thermometer 80°. Senator Conkling sailed for Europe today. The Rev. John S. C. Abbott, author of the Rollo Books, and of some repute as a historian for juveniles, died today, aged 72 years.

SUNDAY, June 17th.—Clear, fresh air, with wind from the northwest. Thermometer 73°. A Temperance Camp Meeting is held at Freeville on the S. C. R. R., to which a special train was run today. The Owasco Lake is undergoing its annual process of purification, and is offensive both to the taste and smell.

MONDAY, June 18th.—The morning opens cool and pleasant with a fresh wind from the northwest. Thermometer 80°. My sparrow died today. I shall be pardoned for introducing this scrap of personal history into my record, inasmuch as in my last month's paper, I took occasion to make some aspersions upon the English Sparrow. A few mornings since, I found the young of a nest of sparrows on the ground, blown from the nest by the wind of the previous night. Two were killed by the fall, but the third parachuted himself in some way, in safety to the ground. I could but pity his helpless condition, and the common instincts of humanity led me to place him in a basket of cotton, and, as far as practicable, stand *in loco parentis*. It was astonishing what an appetite this fledgling had. The least jar at any moment, would cause his mouth to fly open, like an old fashioned shingle fly-trap. He would eat at any time. His motto appeared to be quantity first, quality afterwards. Quan-

tity, with him, was as essential as to the most pronounced Greek vowel. I think he would have eaten a rubber shoe, but would have preferred a rubber boot. Whether from my lack of knowledge as to his proper diet, or lack of discretion as to meal time, or other cause, the bird in time began to show signs of approaching dissolution, his swallowing capacity grew less vigorous, and this morning I found him dead. I was sorry that he died. I would have given him his board during his minority, free of charge, had he lived, and a respectable outfit to begin the world with. Having said thus much, and noticing that a happy pair of sparrows are in peaceable possession of the hollow limb of the apple tree, unmolested by me, I trust to have made my peace with the sparrow tribe, and drop them from my record. The Common Council met in the evening, appointed a committee of conference on the Aurelius Avenue Bridge question, and ordered the carriage of Hose 1 to be painted.

TUESDAY, June 19th.—Wind fresh from the northwest, warm and sultry. The prevailing winds and sultry weather indicate atmospheric disturbances, and storms are reported in various localities. Thermometer, 82°. Gov. Robinson arrives in the evening to attend the Shield's anniversary tomorrow. He is received with salvos of artillery and "music by the band," escorting him to the home of Hon. Charles N. Ross, whose guest he is during his stay in the city. Gen. Shields, who came by the same train was unintentionally overlooked and quietly escorted himself to the Osborne House. He was unsuccessful in hiding his light under a bushel however, and was soon found out and tromboned into the company of the other celebrities. The Board of Education held a special meeting in the evening, and awarded the contract for building the new school house in District No. 1, to James C. Stout, for \$4,400, which was subsequently increased to \$4,500, owing to an error in Mr. Stout's figures.

WEDNESDAY, June 20th.—A mild, clear morning, with the wind from the southeast. I find that I omitted to mention, in my record for Friday last, that, early in the morning of that day, a frail woman named Cora French, shot and killed a saloon-keeper named John H. Barrett, at a house of ill fame on Gaylord street, and then shot herself, probably fatally, although she is still living.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Shield's Guards is being celebrated today. Gen. James Shields, in whose honor the company is named, is present as orator. Gen. Wade Hampton, acting governor of South Carolina, arrived in the morning, to take part in the exercises. A procession of military and firemen paraded the streets to Burt's Grove, where speeches were made by Governors Robinson and Hampton, and Gen. Shields. In the evening, a reception was given by Mr. Ross, and a ball was given at the Armory, by the Guards. The celebration got to be, unintentionally doubtless, somewhat top-heavy, and proved to be rather an ovation to Hampton and Robinson, than a celebration of the Shield's anniversary.

Thermometer, 72°. The day has been one of marvelous beauty. The air is laden with the perfume of roses, and the strawberry crimsons the delicate short-cake in even the most frugal household. This delicious fruit is unusually fine and plentiful this season. Next to eating strawberries, I enjoy seeing the birds eat them. I was much interested this morning in watching a patriarchal robin, whose neck from age or other cause was graced with a ring of white feathers, who was introducing his son to the delicacies of my Golden Queen berries. The old bird plucked the half of a large berry and deposited it somewhat vigorously in the capacious maw of the waiting, bob-tailed youth, who, after two or three sturdy efforts, succeeded in hiding it, smacking his chops after the manner of birds with evident satisfaction. The old bird looked over at me somewhat inquiringly, and then cocking his head, looked

down wisely and patronizingly upon his son, as if saying, "These are fine berries, my son—fair size, but they lack the delicate flavor of the wild field berries which I used to get, when I was of your age." Statements like this, and incidents of their ancestors' youthful exploits, serve to impress youth with the importance and wide experience of their fathers, and I doubt not that this youth will brag over other boy robins of his acquaintance, of what *his* father did when he was a boy, how he used to get strawberries as big as apples and as sweet as *everything*.

The commencement exercises of the Young Ladies' Institute were held in the evening, at the First Presbyterian Church, at which six young ladies were graduated.

THURSDAY, June 21st.—A slight rain, early in the morning. Warm, with a brisk wind from the southwest. Thermometer, 78°. At 1 P. M., the wind shifted to the northwest, bringing rain which continued until evening. A destructive fire occurred at St. Johns, New Brunswick, destroying a large part of the business portion of the city, occasioning the loss of some fifteen millions of property and of some thirty or more lives.

FRIDAY, June 22nd.—Cooler, after the rain during the night, with a fresh northwest wind. Thermometer, 62°. The second installment of the currant worms begins to show its ravages upon currant and gooseberry leaves. Eleven men were hanged in Pennsylvania today, convicted Mollie McGuires, of the mining region. The Orphan Asylum strawberry festival was held in the evening, the notable feature of which was the presence of Gen. Shields. The day closed cool with the thermometer at 50°, at 10 P. M.

SATURDAY, June 23rd. Cool and pleasant, with wind from the southwest. Thermometer, 68°. Mr. Perrigo informs me that there were frosts in some portions of the county, last evening, which I think questionable. The Supreme Court at General Term decides the contested election case, as to police

justice, in favor of Mr. Teller. Gen. Shields lectured to a small audience, at the Academy of Music, in the evening; subject, "Reminiscences of the Mexican War." The Mexican War is too old to create much enthusiasm. Messrs. Frost and McKelvy commenced a ten days' Temperance Revival, at the Opera House, in the evening.

SUNDAY, June 24th.—A bright, pleasant morning, with wind from the west. Thermometer, 78°. Robert Dale Owen, of some notoriety as a controversialist, and latterly as the dupe of a well executed trick in spiritual manifestations, died today, aged 76.

MONDAY, June 25th.—A bright morning, after a slight rain, with wind in the southwest, working around to the northwest in the afternoon. Thermometer, 82°. The annual examinations of the public schools commence today and continue through the week. The city of Marblehead, Mass., is almost wholly destroyed by fire. A wide-spread tornado passes over Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, proving very destructive to crops, trees and buildings in its course. A mad dog is reported to have been killed in William street, today. News comes of the crossing of the Danube by the Russians on Friday, at Braila, with little opposition from the Turks. The place of crossing was below the chief Turkish defences and near the commencement of the Delta. The Common Council meet in the evening and provide for the enforcement of the ordinance requiring dogs to be muzzled by their owners, or shot by the police.

TUESDAY, June 26th.—Wind south and cloudy. Thermometer, 73°. The supervisors hold their annual picnic at Ensenore, More Russians are reported as crossing the Danube at Galatz, near the former crossing place. News is received of the death of D. P. Wallis, by drowning in the Allegany river, near Clinton, Pa., the body having been in the water some days when discovered.

WEDNESDAY, June 27th.—Wind north, clear and pleasant. Thermometer, 76°. President Hayes, who with a portion of his cabinet is visiting Boston, attends the commencement exercises of Harvard University, and is made LL. D. A similar honor is conferred by Union College, upon Governor Robinson.

The first series of the potato bug of this year's growth is arriving at full size, and is apparently about assuming the dignity of wings. I have watched the development of this insect (if I am right in calling it an insect) with a great degree of interest; latterly with especial reference to the theory of evolution. My observations lead me to caution those who would assert that he has no intelligence upon which to build. He has some instinct, if you please, of æsthetics, as is evidenced by his wearing a striped coat. He is cunning, for when disturbed, if a bug of mature life, he falls to the ground, draws in his legs and plays possum, but in infancy and youth clings to the parent stem with great tenacity. He is adapted to the law, for when poked off into a basin of kerosene, he pulls for the shore and attempts to crawl up the side of the basin, showing a knowledge of the great natural law of self-preservation. He is adapted to politics, as the young changes its coat three or four times before reaching maturity. Finally, he is versed in the principle of natural selection, as is shown by his choosing for his diet the potato, the food of the lords of creation, in preference to pig-weed and "pussley" which would just as well answer the purpose of a bug who ate merely for the sake of eating. This is as far as I have got in my investigations.

THURSDAY, June 28th.—A mild northeast wind and a clear sky. Thermometer, 78°. Police Justice Teller enters upon the duties of his office today.

FRIDAY, June 29th.—A southerly wind with scattered clouds and warmer. Thermometer, 77°. I notice the first invoice of imported green cabbages in market today.



The commencement exercises of the High School are held at the Shimer Opera House in the evening, a class of seven members graduating. A slight rain fell in the early evening. The Public Schools close for vacation.

SATURDAY, June 30th.—A southeast wind and slightly overcast. Thermometer 80°. The average temperature for the month of June, at 1 P. M., has been 74.7°. The extremes have been 86° on the 1st, 2nd and 15th, and 53° on the 10th, although the lowest temperature was reached on the evening of the 22nd.

SUNDAY, July 1st.—Sunday morning naps were disturbed by a shower from the northwest with continuous but light thunder. The heavier part of the storm, which was apparently accompanied with hail, passed to the north. Thermometer 84. A strong westerly wind prevailed in the afternoon which tried the endurance of the full foliaged trees. The first fire-flies or "Lightning bugs" of the season flashed through the air in the evening.

MONDAY, July 2nd.—Cool and cloudy, with fresh northwest wind. Thermometer 74°. The storm of yesterday was characterized by an unusual fall of water in the locality of Utica, causing the canal and the Mohawk river to overflow. Severe storms are also reported from the west and south.

Amos T. Carpenter, for many years an esteemed resident of the city, died today aged 89.

Ripe currants, black, and red raspberries and cherries succeed strawberries in market today.

The Common Council meet in the evening and discuss the Aurelius Avenue bridge.

TUESDAY, July 3rd.—A southerly wind and somewhat cloudy. Reports of serious reverses to the Russian army in Armenia are received. New potatoes boldly enter the market today at \$2.00 per bushel, but the continued influx during the day, reduced the price to \$.80 per bushel in the evening. So

far as I have tested them I think a little more age would add to their excellence and I mistrust that cultivators are digging them to secure a respite from the battle with potato bugs.

(*Mem.* I notice that it impairs the usefulness of the potato bug, to soak him in kerosene oil.) Thermometer 78°.

The Board of Education held its regular monthly session in the evening, and the usual 3rd of July bonfires and small fireworks were indulged in by Young America.

WEDNESDAY, July 4th.—The anniversary of our National Independence is ushered in with a hundred guns, more or less, and the ringing of bells. A clear sky and a cool northerly wind contribute to the prospect of a pleasant day. Thermometer 79°. An Indian game was advertised for Seward Avenue Park in the forenoon, but from failure to procure transportation or other cause, the poor Indian disappointed the expectations of the white face. An immense throng of strangers, estimated variously at from 10,000 to 20,000 visited the city to witness the "sham battle" at the Fair Grounds, a reproduction on a small and harmless scale of the Battle of Gettysburg, under the auspices of the Grand Army. The affair was a success so far as the number of spectators could make it, but the limited number of combatants of the opposing forces, afforded little opportunity for the display of gallantry or for blowing any raw recruit's eyes full of powder. The usual amount of vociferous crimination and recrimination was indulged in as to the failure of the army to turn out, and the battle will be fought over again and again, with wordy weapons, for many days to come. Altogether the day has been a memorable one for Auburn.

THURSDAY, July 5th.—Wind southwest, and slightly overcast. A lull from the excitement, tumult and noise of yesterday, with no incident of importance, characterizes the day. Miss Bullard produces the Cantata of the Flower Queen at the Academy of Music in the evening for the benefit of the Sey-

mour Library, the singers being from her classes in the public schools. The Board of Education holds an adjourned meeting and appoints the public school teachers for the ensuing year. Thermometer 76°.

FRIDAY, July 6th.—Cloudy in the morning but clearing during the day with a fresh wind from the north. Thermometer 73°. Miss Bullard repeats her concert in the evening.

SATURDAY, July 7th.—A bright, clear day, the weathercocks indicating a slight northerly current of air, but the undercurrent is from the south. Thermometer 80°. History seems to be taking a vacation, the most important local events being occasional falls from cherry trees, resulting in a sprained wrist or broken arm, and a basket of scattered cherries.

SUNDAY, July 8th.—A warm morning, relieved by a fresh breeze from the south and southwest, with scattered clouds. Thermometer 83°. Today was the nominated day for the world to come to an end. The world continued to rotate however, as on ordinary days, and with the exception of a slight shower in the evening, was not widely different from former peaceful Sabbaths.

MONDAY, July 9th.—Warm and somewhat sultry with mild rain from the south and west, accompanied with thunder. Mr. Perrigo says the weather promises badly for haying, which is now in its midst, and will be apt to rust wheat. Fierce tornadoes pass over the eastern part of this state and Massachusetts, and through Wisconsin and Iowa, destroying buildings and crops, and occasioning some loss of life in the latter locality. Tornadoes have been unusually frequent and destructive in the west this season, the property destroyed amounting to several millions of dollars. Thermometer 72°. In local base ball, the "Crickets," of Binghamton come to Auburn, and to grief, by a score of 13 to 6 in favor of the Auburn club.

I notice that the Linden or Basswood tree is in full bud, but

not yet in bloom. I know of no later flowering tree in this locality. Today being washing day, the showers have somewhat tried the patience of Bridget, who was late in "getting her clothes out."

TUESDAY, July 10th.—The morning opens with smart showers from the west and northwest. The weather is what Mr. Perrigo would call "ketchy" As the day advanced the sky cleared, a fresh wind from the west sprang up, and the threatening aspect of the morning was not fulfilled. The Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church initiated the Sunday School picnic season, by a trip to Fair Haven. Other enjoyable occasions of a similar nature are advertised by the various Sunday Schools, in hot succession, and large temporary accessions to the Sunday School ranks may be reasonably anticipated. Huckleberries are in market for the first today, and the purple-lipped boy need no longer necessarily be charged with having been in a swimming. Thermometer 74°.

The usual Tuesday calf cavalcade made its pilgrimage through our streets today, on its way to the depot. Some of the specimens were finer than any I have before noticed this season.

And now my dear doctor my task is ended. It has extended over a period of slow, but wonderful transformation, from the gray barrenness of early spring to the rich bloom and verdure of a perfect summer, gladdened with the promise of an unusually abundant harvest. A season of more perfect development is rarely accorded us. What wonder then that I should have drawn largely from nature in making up my daily record?

It is my purpose at an early day to retire to a rural retreat in the neighborhood of my friend, Mr. Perrigo, where I shall, for a few weeks, sit at the feet of the goddess Ceres, rather than court the muse of History. I trust that some worthy successor among my historian brethren, will take up the tale where I leave it, and continue it in my absence. Duties have pressed heavily upon me during the past month, and in writing

up my notes, I find them at times to have become musty and mildewed from lapse of time, which must excuse the lack of freshness characterizing my record.

I may add a few general notes of the month which may be of interest. The Russian war has dragged its slow length along. The Turks have overcome the Montenegrins; the Russians have crossed to the south shore of the Danube, suffering heavy losses, but inflicting no less upon the Turks. In Asia Minor the Turks achieved a marked success over the left wing of the Russian Army, threatening to raise the siege of Kars, and put an end to the advance on Erzeroum. The latest advices report the re-establishment of the Russian lines and the renewal of the siege.

An Indian outbreak in Oregon creates some prospect of another Indian campaign. Sitting Bull is reported as raiding upon the territories, from his retreat in the British possessions. The question arises as to the propriety of chasing him across the line, as has lately been done on the Mexican border by the United States troops, in pursuing the bandits across the Rio Grande.

General Grant has, within a few days, retreated from the hospitalities of England to the quiet of Belgium, *en route* for Norway and Sweden, and a general tour of the continent.

President Hayes has issued an order, depriving federal office holders of the luxury of taking leading parts in political campaigns, and for the future, stars in that line, will have to content themselves with taking the parts of stock actors and "supes."

And now with my *pax tecum*, I take my leave.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,

*Historiographer.*

AUBURN, N. Y., July 7, 1877.

B. B. SNOW, ESQ.,

*Dear Sir* :—The undersigned, your associates in the Cayuga County Historical Society, appreciating the value of the "Monthly Record of Current Events" which you have prepared and read before our association at their last three meetings, join in the earnest request that you will continue these very interesting papers, not only for our present gratification, but to aid the society in carrying out one of the main objects of its organization—the preservation of local history in an acceptable form for future reference.

J. H. OSBORNE,  
L. E. CARPENTER,  
WM. G. WISE,  
J. T. M. DAVIE,  
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD,  
C. D. MACDOUGALL,  
BYRON C. SMITH,  
D. M. OSBORNE,  
G. W. ALLEN,  
W. D. BALDWIN,  
WM. A. BAKER,  
A. G. BEARDSLEY, Jr.,  
J. W. DUNNING,  
JAS. SEYMOUR, Jr.,  
E. D. WOODRUFF,  
NELSON B. ELDRED,  
H. J. KNAPP,  
GEO. R. PECK,  
B. FOSGATE,  
E. R. FAY,

J. D. BUTTON,  
W. H. SEWARD,  
D. M. DUNNING,  
J. LEWIS GRANT,  
CHARLES M. BAKER,  
CHARLES HAWLEY,  
S. WILLARD,  
THEO. DIMON,  
WM. B. WOODIN,  
DENNIS R. ALWARD,  
CHAS STANDART,  
T. J. KENNEDY,  
F. P. TABER,  
LANSINGH BRIGGS,  
D. E. CLAPP,  
W. HOLLISTER,  
H. L. STORKE,  
JOHN S. CLARK,  
W. H. CARPENTER,  
E. S. NEWTON,

SAMUEL LYON.

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., July 11, 1877.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann:*

The day opens clear, with a fresh wind from the northwest. The Historical Society held its regular monthly session last evening, and listened to an entertaining paper from J. Lewis Grant, Esq., describing a sportsman's tour in the wilds of Canada. The society with the laudable determination of perpetuating something of local history that might by possibility come to your notice, voted to continue the duties of local historian, and with a delicate and commendable consideration for yourself, in view of the fact that you may have devoted much time and research to the labor of deciphering the record thus far presented, and to the end that you might not be compelled to acquaint yourself with an entirely unfamiliar style of hieroglyphics, voted to continue your present correspondent temporarily in his position. This will excuse to you, what might otherwise seem presumption on my part, in intruding my observations on your notice. The thermometer indicates a temperature of 72° at 1 P. M. The Sunday School of St. Peter's Church hold their annual picnic at Ensenore.

THURSDAY, July 12th.—A clear warm morning with wind from the west. The Wall street M. E. Church Sunday School go picnicing to Ensenore. The Water Works Company commences laying iron mains through State street. The water in the Owasco Lake Outlet at the upper dam, is reported at 9

inches above the crest of the dam, which is 18 inches lower than on the corresponding day last year. The Orangemen celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Boyne today in various localities throughout the United States and Canada, and collisions with the Catholics are reported at Montreal, resulting in the loss of three or four lives. Thermometer 80°. The Psi Upsilon Fraternity hold a social re-union at the St. James Hotel in the evening. A fine shower in the evening with moderate thunder.

FRIDAY, July 13th.—A charming cool morning with wind northwest. The first circus of the season, with menagerie accompaniment, parades the streets in the morning. Among the distinguished arrivals reported in the old world, I note that of the Potato Bug in Germany. He is reported as arriving packed in saw-dust and was received with kerosene and an illumination which he declined and set out at once for the potato fields. Evidently his mission is one of business rather than pleasure. Thermometer 70°.

SATURDAY, July 14th.—A bright warm morning with a slight current of air from the south. In accordance with the intention which I announced in my last communication, I today enter upon the seclusion of rural life. I have arranged with an esteemed friend of careful habits, to keep a record of the temperature for me during my absence, that I may have daily, at least one reliable item of interest in my record. To the casual observer, it may seem a simple matter to keep a record of the temperature. Experience, however, has satisfied me to the contrary. It is like getting up early in the morning, easy enough when you have once formed the habit, but you are apt to forget it until the habit is well fixed. During the past month I had occasion to be absent a day, and impressed upon the household, the importance of securing the record for me. Upon my return in the evening, the matron of the household reported, "well I declare, I forgot all about it, but it was



about the same as yesterday." Another member of the household, whose altitude had been somewhat neglected, from a tip-toe observation, reported the mercury well up to "blood heat," while the housemaid, who was projected on the beanpole style of architecture, looking down from her height, marked the range well down towards the "freezing point." I was therefore compelled to adopt a mercurial instead of a golden mean, and make the record "about the same as yesterday."

If I were to undertake a daily record of events as has heretofore been my practice, its perusal would be like reading the alternate pages of a book, as the daily papers upon which I am wholly dependent, come to me with an almost impudent irregularity. I have thought best therefore to group the different subjects rather than attempt to detail them in strictly chronological order. I begin therefore with the weather, which has been exceptionally fine during the whole summer. Throughout the harvest season scarcely a drop of rain fell to interfere with the securing of the crops. I have noted rain as follows. Tuesday, July 17, rainy; and a severe storm with wind from the southwest on the night of the 18th. Rain in the afternoon of the 27th, and a slight rain in the afternoon of the 28th. A lazy rain Aug. 8th, and a fine shower on the 10th, both in the afternoon. A severe thunder gust with heavy rain on Sunday the 12th. A heavy shower in the late afternoon of the 15th, and still another the 16th. Aug. 24th was showery with a strong south wind, a heavy shower falling about 5 P. M. A fine shower the night of the 28th. No distinctively rainy days have occurred during the summer. The wind has been light and variable, the prevailing winds being from the west and northwest. Exceptional to this, the last day of July and the 1st and 2nd days of August, a strong south wind prevailed, followed by three days of strong northerly wind. Prior to the rains of the 10th and 12th of August, the earth became parched and gardens suffered materially from lack of rain. Pasturage

also suffered to the extent of increasing the price of butter from 16 to 25 cents per lb. The temperature though warm, has been free from those extremes of heat which sometimes characterize our summers. The average temperature for July was 79.9°, the highest being 89° on Sunday the 29th, and the lowest 70° on Friday the 13th. For August the average was 79.2°, the extremes being 90° on Monday the 8th, and 68° on Friday the 31st.

The record of crimes is somewhat startling. On Friday July 13, Edmond Hoppins killed Philip Proudfoot, of Sterling, by striking him with a ball club. The provocation for the deed was the fact that Proudfoot was charged with having seduced Hoppins' sister under promise of marriage. Both were young men. Hoppins was committed to jail to answer the charge of murder. On Thursday, August 9th, William Brown and James Rooney of the town of Scipio, got into an altercation in the harvest field, the dispute arising as to which should rake a certain swath of oats. Brown struck Rooney on the head with his rake, as he claims in self defence, killing him. Brown attempted suicide, but was unsuccessful, not cutting his throat in the right place. He was committed to jail but was subsequently bailed. On the same day, Charles Moon residing in the town of Ira, was shot and killed by a man disguised as a tramp. Moon's father-in-law Lester Brotherton, an ex-convict, was arrested and committed for the offence, although he denies any knowledge of it and claims to be able to establish an alibi. The alleged provocation is the fact that Moon testified against Brotherton when the latter was committed to prison.

The event of most general interest has been the "Railroad War," which originated in a strike of the employes of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, on account of a reduction in wages. The trouble spread rapidly to the Pennsylvania Central railroad and other lines, until most of the roads of the northern and western states were involved. A general suspension of traffic and

travel for a few days resulted. In Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Hornellsville, Buffalo and in some of the western cities, mobs were collected, trains were forcibly stopped, much property was destroyed and many lives sacrificed. The militia of Pennsylvania and New York were ordered out and government troops, as far as available, were brought into requisition. The most disastrous occurrence was at Pittsburgh, July 21, when a collision took place between the militia and the mob, several lives being sacrificed on both sides. The mob getting the better of the conflict, burned a large number of railroad buildings, engines and cars. The destruction of property amounted to some four or five millions of dollars. Tuesday, July 24th, the 49th regiment of this city was ordered to Buffalo to guard railroad property in that city. The regiment returned on Friday the 27th, without the loss of a man. They reported themselves as hospitably received in the enemy's country and were commended for their soldierly bearing and prompt discharge of duty. It must be admitted, however, that the militia did not in all instances meet the public expectation in quelling the riots, and the opinion was occasionally expressed that the regulars were more efficient for that purpose. Perhaps the prompt measures of Sheridan in Chicago, afforded some ground for this belief. The war lasted about ten days and gradually subsided, leaving a remnant existing among the coal miners of Pennsylvania.

Although characterized by the press generally as a "Railroad War," and confined as it was mainly to railroad lines, it had more or less sympathy from all classes of labor, and active participators from the manufacturing and non-laboring classes of community. William H. Vanderbilt distributed \$100,000 among the loyal employes of the New York Central railroad, after the strike was ended, and dismissed all employes who were engaged in obstructing the road.

In the obituary column, I have noted the following: July 17, at Grand Rapids, Mich., Col. Lyman L. Wilkinson, for many

years a resident of this city, somewhat noted as a Democratic politician, given to speech making at ward gatherings, and on presentation occasions. Age 67.

JULY 27.—Col. J. M. Healy, a prominent resident of the town of Sennett, at the age of 79.

JULY 28.—George W. Peck, editor-in-chief of the *Daily Advertiser*, shot himself fatally in a fit of temporary insanity. He had been indisposed for some time, and latterly seemed possessed with a mania for self-destruction. He was a gentleman much respected in our community with a large circle of friends. The circumstances attending his death were peculiarly sad, and shed a gloom over the entire community. His age was 57.

JULY 31.—Elmund C. Skaddan, a prominent resident of the town of Brutus was accidentally drowned while bathing in the Seneca River. His age was 56.

AUGUST 3.—Edward Wheeler of Fleming, died from the effect of a cancer. Age 68.

AUGUST 7.—William H. Chase of Union Springs, died of apoplexy, aged 78. He was a prominent clergyman of the Society of Friends, a writer of considerable ability, and an exemplary man in all his relations in life. He left a will executed in due form, containing the singular bequest of his remains and all his worldly goods to his Creator.

AUGUST 14. Thomas Cushman, for many years a Justice of the Peace of the town of Scipio, died, aged 87.

AUGUST 20.—Emery Osborn died, aged 67. He was much esteemed in community as a reliable business man, and enjoyed in a marked degree, the confidence of our public. For many years prior to, and up to the time of his death, he was engaged in the meat market business, succeeding his father therein.

On the same day died Henry Beers, aged 65, a well known resident, of the humbler walks of life. He was a German by birth, and in his younger days was characterized for his industry, and throughout life for his integrity.

AUGUST 25.—William Moore died, aged 70 years. He was a writer of some ability, and formerly contributed liberally in his line to the local papers, but latterly was understood to be the regular Auburn correspondent of the *Syracuse Sunday News*.

AUGUST 29.—Brigham Young, the Mormon leader, died at Salt Lake City, aged 76. He was formerly a resident of this county. He left seventeen widows to mourn his loss, and forty-four orphans, a sufficient number to start a respectable orphan asylum. He was the father of fifty-six children, but the number of his wives was never made public. Most of his family attended his funeral but are not reported as showing deep grief. As each widow will be entitled by law to a life estate of one third of his property, it becomes an interesting question where there will be thirds enough found to go around.

AUGUST 30.—Raphael Semmes, notorious as the commander of the Alabama during the latter years of the rebellion, died at Mobile, aged 68. He was engaged at the time of his death, and for some years previous, in the practice of law at Mobile.

Of general events I have made the following notes :

The Russian invasion of Turkish Territory has thus far resulted disastrously to the invaders. In Armenia no general battle has taken place, but the fighting has been mainly to the advantage of the Turks. The campaign in that locality seems almost ended for the year, and has been discreditable to the Russian army. In Bulgaria, the Russians after crossing the Danube and establishing their base of supplies, pushed rapidly forward across the Balkans with their cavalry, securing the important Schipka Pass. In a general attack on Plevna, July

30th and 31st, they met their Bull Run, and were completely and disastrously routed. This necessitated the falling back of their advanced forces, a careful watching of their lines, and emboldened the Turks to assume the offensive. Reinforcements are being rapidly forwarded on both sides, and a general engagement may occur any day. The Russians seem to lack in generalship, while the Turks surpass in that respect.

General Grant after a brief continental tour has returned to Scotland, where he was as cordially received as in England. He was made a Burgher of Edinburgh, and has been tendered the freedom of innumerable cities in Scotland.

Senator Conkling returned from his European tour early in August, and was given a reception on his arrival in New York, and on the 14th of August by his friends in Utica. Gov. Tilden quietly departed for Europe in July and has quietly made his tour thus far without getting into the papers.

The Indian War in Montana has been progressing vigorously with varying success. On the 11th of July, Gen. Howard had an engagement with the Indians on the Cottonwood in which the Indians were not badly worsted. Gen. Howard's command suffered severely. On the 9th of August another severe engagement occurred at Big Hole, between Gen. Gibbons' command and the Indians, in which the Indians got decidedly the best of it. Sitting Bull is still reported in the British Dominion awaiting ambassadors from the United States Government to treat for peace. The campaign does not promise a speedy close and the indications are that more than the handful of troops which the Government is able to send will be needed to put an end to hostilities.

Prominent among the centennial celebrations of the year was that of the battle of Oriskany, on the 7th day of August. It was attended by a large concourse of people and was addressed by Ex-Governor Seymour, the orator of the day being the Hon. Ellis H. Roberts of Utica. On the 15th of August and the two

following days the centennial anniversary of the Battle of Bennington occurred. All New England was there and the occasion is reported as one of much interest. The President and his cabinet also attended after which they made a tour of some of the prominent New England localities, indulging in speech-making, shaking hands, and the customary amusements of a Presidential party, swinging around the circle.

Of seriatim events of local or general interest, I find the following in my notes.

**SATURDAY, July 14th.**—Courtney of Union Springs, the champion oarsman, is prevented by sickness from rowing a match at Greenwood Lake, N. J., with his rival Riley. It is asserted and generally credited that Courtney was drugged.

**MONDAY, July 16th.**—The assessors, having completed their rounds, advertise for a revision of the assessment roll by those feeling aggrieved. The Common Council meet in the evening and discuss the Aurelius Avenue Bridge and accept a gift of 21 acres of land from Lyman Soule, Esq., for a cemetery.

**TUESDAY, July 17th.**—The Universalist Sunday School picnic is held at Ensenore.

**WEDNESDAY, July 18th.** The Exchange street Methodist Sunday School picnic at Ensenore. The local baseball club starts on its tour for a series of games in several eastern cities. The State Senate meets in extra session at Saratoga to investigate the charges against Ellis, superintendent of the bank department, for laches in the discharge of his duties.

**THURSDAY, July 19th.** The Campbellite Sunday School picnic at Ensenore. I notice the first locust of the season today.

**FRIDAY, July 20th.**—The first sweet corn of the season is reported today, the fruit of Abel Hudson's labors.

**TUESDAY, July 24th.**—The Central Church Sunday School picnic at Fair Haven.

WEDNESDAY, July 25th.—The second annual clam bake at Burdick's Point on Owasco Lake, is participated in by some two hundred people from the city.

THURSDAY, July 26.—I first notice the chirrup of the cricket in the evening, and the first peaches appear in market. The Cayuga Lake railroad is sold today on the first mortgage bonds, for \$20,000.

TUESDAY, July 31st.—The base-ball club returns from its tour, having played nine games, winning five, losing three, with one drawn game. I confess to some neglect in my notes of the National game. Our home club has played with varying success, but stands a chance of securing the state championship. They seem to find themselves entirely unequal to cope with the Stars of Syracuse, although they easily win against clubs who are frequently successful in contests with the Stars. The base-ball fever has raged fiercely this season, throughout the country. My chief interest in it has been in dodging balls in my daily rounds.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 1st.—The Howgate Polar expedition sails from New London, Ct., today. A singular fact connected with it is, that a gentleman of Cincinnati contributes \$500 toward the expenses of the expedition, hoping to confirm his theory that an open passage exists through the center of the earth, from the north to the south pole. He expects the present expedition, if it succeeds in reaching the north pole, to sail through the tunnel and come out at the south end thereof.

The chief of police reports 94 arrests by the police, for the month of July. Frank Walworth who murdered his father, and was sentenced to State Prison for life therefor, is today pardoned and set at liberty by Gov. Robinson.

THURSDAY, Aug. 2nd.—The Ross Hose Co. picnic at Newark Valley today.



MONDAY, Aug. 6th.—The Common Council further discuss the Aurelius Ave. bridge.

TUESDAY, Aug. 7th.—The Board of Education meet in regular monthly session.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 8th.—The St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church picnic at Ensenore.

MONDAY, Aug. 13th.—The London circus exhibits to a large crowd of spectators.

TUESDAY, Aug. 14th.—The Auburndale camp-meeting commences today. Flour is reported as declining from \$9 to \$8 per barrel.

Prof. Hall of the U. S. Naval Observatory, at Washington, discovers a satellite of the planet Mars.

THURSDAY, Aug. 16th.—“Hose 6” picnic at Taghanic and the St. George's society at Fair Haven.

FRIDAY, Aug. 17th.—Bank Superintendent Ellis is found guilty of the charges preferred against him, and is removed. The governor nominates Hon. Allen C. Beach for his successor, but the nomination is rejected by the Senate, by a vote of 15 to 15.

Prof. Hall discovers a second satellite of the planet Mars. These moons are quite diminutive in size and are distant from Mars 4,000 and 6,000 miles respectively. Mars is nearer the earth this summer than at any time for the past thirty years, and has been exceedingly brilliant. The discovery of these moons is not expected to affect the business interests of the country materially, although we thus acquire considerable territory by discovery. To the scientific world, the event is important as tending to establish the nebular theory. A rumor prevails however of the discovery of a third moon revolving from west to east. If this should prove true, it will upset some cherished astronomical theories.

SATURDAY, Aug. 18.—The State Senate adjourns, having been in session just one month, in the trial of Ellis, and attending the Saratoga horse races.

MONDAY, Aug. 20th.—The Common Council order a stone bridge to be built over the Owasco outlet at Aurelius Avenue, at a cost of something over \$8,000, awarding the contract to C. C. Petty, Esq., of this city. The assessors report the assessed valuation for the year to be, real estate, \$7,199,950; Personal, \$1,859,450; Total, \$9,059,400. The total assessment for 1876 was \$8,667,825. There is a falling off of some \$50,000, in personal property, and an increase in the real estate valuation of upwards of \$450,000.

THURSDAY, Aug. 23rd.—A total eclipse of the moon occurred today. As it commenced at 4 o'clock P. M., and the sky was cloudy in the evening, it was invisible here.

FRIDAY, Aug. 24th.—The Second Presbyterian Church Sunday School picnic at Ensenore.

SATURDAY, Aug. 25th.—The mayor vetoes the Aurelius Avenue stone bridge project.

TUESDAY, Aug. 28th.—Courtney, Riley and Plaisted row at Saratoga. Courtney winning the race easily. Plaisted who was favorite next to Courtney was distanced.

FRIDAY, Aug. 31st.—Today I resume my labors, after my long recreation, and shall once more devote my attention to noting local events for this record. I observe many changes in the aspect of things, which have been wrought during my absence. The bright buoyant verdure of the spring and early summer has assumed a ripening grayish hue foreboding the sere and yellow leaf. The robins silently hover about in companies, eating the ripening grapes and sucking the sweet juices of the plums; the bob-o-link has donned his sober suit of gray, preparatory to playing his role of rice-bird in southern marshes; the oriole has doffed his gay plumage and sings no more; the

swallows have disappeared, the dusty looking blue bird suns himself sleepily, giving forth at intervals a feeble chirp; the sparrow begins to chatter noisily: the cricket sets up his monotonous serenade in the early afternoon; the days shorten and the autumn time cometh. The grocers' stands groan under their loads of fruits and vegetables, peaches being remarkably abundant and of fine quality. The harvest has been bountiful, beyond anything for many a year. I hear of wheat yielding as high as  $52\frac{1}{2}$  bushels to the acre, which is nearly or quite double the average yield. I notice that the water at the upper dam of the Owasco outlet is reported as 18 inches below the crest of the dam, showing a fall of 27 inches since the 12th of July.

SATURDAY, Sept. 1st.—Cooler with rain from the north. Thermometer  $65^{\circ}$  and cloudy. Alvin Adams, the founder of the American Express Company, died today at Watertown, Mass., aged 75 years.

SUNDAY, Sept. 2nd.—Wind northwest and cloudy. Thermometer  $62^{\circ}$ . Rev. M. J. Loughlin, D. D., pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church, resigns his charge today on account of impaired health resulting from the arduous duties of his long pastorate, and other causes. He goes to Lima in this state.

MONDAY, Sept. 3rd.—A cold, sour day, with thermometer at  $58^{\circ}$  and occasional rain during the day. The public schools open with the unusually large attendance of 1,974 pupils. The new primary school building on Franklin street is completed and opens with 68 pupils in attendance. The Common Council meet in the evening and order the tax levy for the year of \$83,700. This is nearly \$20,000 less than the levy of last year. The chief of Police reports 108 arrests for the month of August. The September term of the county court convenes with little business before it. A disastrous fire occurs in New York, originating in a Piano manufactory on Tenth avenue, by which several lives were lost.

Louis Adolphe Thiers, ex-President of the French Republic, died in Paris today, aged 81 years. He was one of the foremost statesmen of the age and his death is regarded as a severe blow to the Republican party of France.

The Russians latterly seem to be retrieving their ill success in Bulgaria, having successfully resisted the attempts of the Turks to regain Schipka Pass in the Balkan mountains and today by a brilliant attack they capture Lovatz, an important strategic point, looking to an advance on Plevna.

TUESDAY, Sept. 4th.—Slightly cloudy but warmer, with wind in the south. Thermometer 72°. The Board of Education meets in regular monthly session in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 5th.—A mild autumn day with southerly wind. Thermometer 75°. Crazy Horse, a noted Indian chieftain, who surrendered to the United States forces in May last, died today. He was suspected of designing to join the hostile Indians, and was placed in arrest. Attempting to escape he was accidentally bayoneted and died of his wounds.

THURSDAY, Sept. 6th.—Cooler and cloudy, with a northerly wind. Thermometer 66°. An Auburn team of the 49th Regiment, Capt. D. M. Dunning commanding, start for Creedmoor to secure several prizes in the rifle matches to take place next week. The laboring men hold a meeting at the Court House, to consider measures for bettering their condition.

FRIDAY, Sept. 7.—A rainy night preceded a rainy morning, clearing towards noon. Thermometer 59°. The unusual occurrence latterly, of a convict escaping, disturbed the monotony of the prison today, and occasioned a vacancy in one of the positions of prison keeper. A son of Ex-Alderman White, died today of lockjaw, induced by the loss of a leg crushed by being run over by the Southern Central cars, on the 28 ult.

SATURDAY, Sept. 8th.—Cloudy in the morning but clearing towards noon, with wind from the northeast. Thermometer

66°. Prof. Edward Hall, D. D., for upwards of twenty years a professor in the Theological Seminary of this city, died today, aged 75.

SUNDAY, Sept. 9th.—Clearing and pleasant. Thermometer 72°. Rev. W. Mulheron, late of Lima, assumes the pastoral charge of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. It is reported that the Russians today, after three days' fighting, capture Plevna, routing the Turks as completely and disastrously as they were themselves routed, at the same place a month since.

MONDAY, Sept. 10.—Somewhat cool, and overcast with a southeast wind. Thermometer 76°. The failure of Frank Leslie, widely known as a publisher of periodicals, is announced today.

TUESDAY, Sept. 11th.—Somewhat cloudy, and threatening with brisk south wind. Thermometer 73°. The annual fair of the Cayuga County Agricultural Society opens today, which may be regarded as an indication of rain. There is no remedy for a drouth equal to a County Fair, excepting possibly a Masonic excursion.

I confess, my dear Doctor, to a dislike of taking history at long range, as I have been compelled to do for the past two months. With the assurance that I will not again attempt it, I share in your regret at the meagre fruits of your toil in deciphering this record, trusting that the future may develop something more interesting and profitable.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, WEDNESDAY Sept. 12, 1877.

*My dear Doctor Schliemann:*

I resume my daily annals somewhat more cheerfully in the hope that the changing season and the near approach of our annual political agitation will afford sufficient items to make my record acceptable and of profit to you.

The morning opens with a fresh south wind, and with light clouds. The Historical Society was favored last evening, by H. H. Bostwick, Esq., with an interesting sketch of the late William Bostwick, an early settler of this city. The workingmen's meeting at the Court House was addressed by the Hon. Milo Goodrich, Col. T. J. Kennedy and Capt. M. H. Hogan; and adopted a series of resolutions. The movement seems to look to the formation of a workingmen's party to operate in the approaching political campaign. Later advices discredit the capture of Plevna by the Russians on Sunday, but state that they are *going* to capture it. These war notes forcibly recall the dispatches during the late Rebellion. Thermometer 78°.

The second day of the County Fair indicates a quite limited success for it. The entries are few and the attendance thin. The failure to include the agricultural horse-trot among the attractions, may have diminished the interest to some extent. The colored people hold a picnic today at Burt's Grove. The colored band dispensed music during the parade to and from

the grounds, the principal parts being carried by the base drum and the trombone.

The regimental team of the 49th Regiment quietly return from Creedmoor in the evening, whither they had been to engage in the rifle match. The bulls-eye seems to have been too small, or too far off for their success.

THURSDAY, Sept 13th.—Clear and warm, with light wind from the south. The indications of a storm have passed away and the day is clear and unusually warm for the season. Thermometer 84°.

The County Fair closes today and is quoted a failure, the attractions not being sufficient to induce even a storm. The workingmen's party organized in the evening. It is worthy of note that the "Talking men" of the community are not entirely ignored in the movement.

FRIDAY, Sept. 14th.—A bright warm morning, with a slight current of air from the north. Copious dews have fallen during the past two nights. The light rain fall of the year is indicated by the low stage of the water in the lake, it being twenty-five inches below the crest of the upper dam, which is six inches lower than any previous record. Thermometer 83°. The International Rifle match, in which the British and American teams met at Creedmoor, closed today, the Americans retaining the championship by 92 points. Republican and Workingmen's caucuses held in the evening.

SATURDAY, Sept. 15th.—Clear and pleasant with wind from the south, freshening to a brisk breeze as the day progresses. Thermometer 84°. The Republican Assembly Convention for the second district met at Moravia and nominated W. Leslie Noyes of Owasco for member of assembly on the 63rd ballot, and appoint the usual delegates to the state and senatorial conventions.

The workingmen's senatorial convention met at Weedsport and nominated Wm. J. Moses of this city for senator. Tweed

details his "little narrative" to the New York aldermanic committee today.

SUNDAY, Sept. 16th.—The south wind continues, the sky somewhat clouded and the air sultry. Thermometer 82°.

MONDAY, Sept. 17th.—A smart south wind, and cloudy. Thermometer 80°. Late in the afternoon the wind changed to northwest, blowing strong and bringing rain which continued during the evening. The annual reunion of Cowan's Battery was held today. Rev. Dr. Boardman, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, resigns his charge after a pastorate of sixteen year's duration.

TUESDAY, Sept. 18th.—A cool morning, partially cloudy with wind from the northwest. Thermometer 60°. The annual inspection of the Fire Department occurs today; visiting companies from Ithaca and Canandaigua join in the parade. A shipwreck is reported at Fair Haven, a coal barge having been blown on to the pier and sunk during the storm last evening. No lives lost.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 19th.—A bright autumn day, slightly cool from the north wind. Thermometer 68°. Stanley, the celebrated explorer reports himself at the mouth of the Congo river, having traversed the entire length of the river, which in its upper course was known to Livingstone and others as the Lualaba. Stanley is the second explorer of modern times who has crossed the continent of Africa from east to west near the equator, and his explorations will possess much interest, especially of a geographical nature.

THURSDAY, Sept. 20th.—A southwest wind this morning softens the temperature, the sky being somewhat overcast. Thermometer 70°. I take occasion to note in my record of today what may seem an intrusion upon the privacy of domestic life; but I feel assured, my dear doctor, that the respected president of our society will pardon me for advising you of the hymeneal



events which have of late transpired in his household, his eldest son having been married on Tuesday, and his only daughter being happily married today. I plead in excuse that it is not a frequent occurrence for two members of a household to indulge in the luxury of matrimony with so brief an interval, but I can understand that in this instance, professional demands upon the head of the household had so accustomed him to the experience that the undertaking may not have seemed of so great magnitude.

The Republican Assembly District Convention for the first district meets at Weedsport and nominates William H. Eaker of Cato for member of assembly, and selects state, judicial, and senatorial delegates. Local politics are exciting considerable interest. Auburn is distinguished at the Buffalo State Greenback Convention by the selection of our townsman, B. B. Willey, Esq., for presiding officer, and by the nomination for attorney general, of Warren T. Worden, Esq., a gentleman of acknowledged early ability, but so far advanced in the autumn of life as to be perhaps a little loose on the stem for the rugged requirements of the position. A slight rain in the evening.

FRIDAY, Sept. 21st.—A cool fall day, with north wind. Thermometer 59°. Warmly contested Republican caucuses are held in the evening. It is astonishing with what certainty railroad accidents occur in pairs or triplets even. Yesterday a train on the wrong track at Clyde, on the New York Central, resulted in a collision, killing an engineer, and tonight a misplaced switch at Rome demolishes another train, severely injuring several employes. The state fair at Rochester closes today.

SATURDAY, Sept. 22nd.—The mercury nestled down close, last night, to avoid the cold, and stood at 42° at 7 o'clock this morning. There was no frost in this locality but I hear of light frosts in some portions of the county. The day is bright and pleasant with thermometer 62°, and wind in the north. The Republican County Convention meets at the Court House,

the exciting contest being over a nominee for sheriff, Mr. John Choate of this city being the successful competitor. Richard C. Steel and John T. M. Davie were nominated for County Judge and for Surrogate, respectively.

SUNDAY, Sept. 23rd.—A south wind and clear sky, warm, with thermometer at 72°. Jean Joseph Leverrier, the most noted astronomer of the present century, died at Paris today, aged 66 years. His famous mathematical calculations, which, foretold with almost unerring certainty the location of an unknown world, led to the discovery of the planet Neptune in 1847. He is said to have been disappointed and soured for life because his name was not given to the newly discovered planet.

The harvest moon has been exhibiting for the last two or three evenings to delighted spectators.

MONDAY, Sept. 24th.—Warmer, with south wind and clear, thermometer 78°. The patent office at Washington was badly damaged by fire today, although the loss in models is not great.

TUESDAY, Sept. 25th.—The wind continues in the south and the temperature increases notwithstanding the scattering clouds. Thermometer 81°. A convict named Thorpe knocks a fellow convict named Howard from the third gallery at the Prison, killing him. The Democratic caucuses for the city are held in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 26th.—The wind is at its old tricks of dry times, opening in the south in the morning and gradually working around by way of the west to the north in the evening, with frequent light clouds. Thermometer 80°. The chief talk on the streets today is the great single scull race at Ensenore tomorrow. The Republican State Convention assembles at Rochester, and is notable for the personal attack of Senator Conkling upon George W. Curtis, construed as indicating an issue with the administration policy.

THURSDAY, Sept. 27th.—The morning opens with a dense fog which obscures the sun until nearly nine o'clock when it clears off warm and pleasant, with a slight haze, a day, worthy the most fastidious Indian summer, following. The wind slight, from the north, veering to the east and south in the afternoon. The scull race was rowed in the afternoon, Courtney easily winning, with Riley second and Johnson third.

An amateur match between Messrs. Eldred and Atwater of this city, in which the former won, preceded the great contest. A large concourse of people, variously estimated at from eight to fifteen thousand, witnessed the contests which were in all respects an entire success. Thermometer 78°.

FRIDAY, Sept. 28th.—A southwest wind and a close sultry air, with a slight sprinkle of rain about noon. Light thunder-showers go around to the south. Thermometer 78°. The Democratic assembly convention is held at Moravia, and nominates Mr. John M. Freese of Aurelius, for member.

SATURDAY, Sept. 29th.—A dense fog in the morning renders it useless for one to get up early to see the sun rise. The mist clears away soon after nine, and a clear day succeeds. The weather vane points dreamily to the west, where the last current of air left it, but wanders around to the east in the afternoon in a bewildered manner, as if hunting for the wind which was trying to hide from it. Thermometer 72°.

The first assembly district Democratic convention assembles at Cato, and nominates H. B. Converse of Port Byron, for member. A Prohibition county convention is held at the Court House and nominates a county ticket, with H. V. Howland for county judge.

SUNDAY, Sept. 30th.—The official "indications" have for several days been prophesying "rain areas and falling barometer" for the "lower lake regions," but the weather has calmly pursued the even tenor of its way with a dignified dis-

regard of the predictions of its official observer, and September hands over to October, its treasures of ripening fruits and changing foliage, upon as perfect a Sabbath as could have been that which inspired the immortal hymn of "holy George Herbert:"

"Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,  
Bridal of earth and sky."

A clear warm sunshine, a mild south wind with the Thermometer at 82°, mark a wide contrast between the exit and the advent of September. The average range of the thermometer for the month, has been 72.5°, the extremes being 58° on the 3rd, and 84° on the 13th and 15th. On fourteen days of the month, the temperature has not been below 75° at 1 o'clock P. M. Rev. Dr. Boardman preaches his parting discourse to his congregation in the evening. Rev. J. Alabaster assumes his pastoral duties at the Exchange St. Methodist Church in the evening.

MONDAY, Oct 1st.—October seems loth to change the order of things as September bequeathed it, and the month opens with a warm clear day with brisk south wind and thermometer at 84°. The Circuit Court commences its sessions with Judge Rumsey presiding. A small body of dissenters from the Republican local nominations, met at the Osborne House and resolved to have another county convention. The Common Council meets in the evening, and the inevitable Aurelius Avenue bridge is the theme of an animated debate.

TUESDAY, Oct. 2nd.—The wind still holds frailly to the south, with a clear warm sky. Thermometer 80°. The Chief of Police reports 77 arrests for the month of September.

A musical convention, under the direction of Prof. Emerson of Boston, commences its sessions today. The Board of Education holds a quiet session in the evening. The "oldest inhabitant" now takes you by the buttonhole and impressively informs you that he has been a resident of Auburn anywhere from fifty to one hundred years, but that his well has never been dry before.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 3rd.—Clear and warm with the wind still in the south and more brisk. The Democratic State Convention assembles in Albany and is chiefly distinguished by the bitter contest between the Tammany and anti-Tammany factions in which the former is as usual triumphant.

Rev. Dr. R. B. Welch is formally inducted into the Professorship of Christian Theology of the Seminary, at the First Presbyterian Church in the evening. Mr. Perrigo called on me today. His broad full face, bronzed by the harvest sun, was in marked contrast with his spotless shirt bosom, which stood out like a big white blister upon his breast. He was evidently quite excited upon the political situation and spoke warmly of the selfishness of Auburn in "gobbling up," as he expressed it, all the important positions upon the local ticket. In vain I assured him that I was simply a local historian and eschewed politics from necessity no less than from choice,—that history must be impartial. I finally arrested him by a quiet inquiry as to whether it had rained lately in his locality, when he at once became eloquent upon the drouth. He had a well in his house and one in his barnyard, but had to pump all the water for his stock. Some of his neighbors had to bring water two or three miles for their stock. Fall feed was all dried up; no butter was being made; late sown fall wheat was ruined; potatoes were yeilding poorly and would be worth a dollar and a half a bushel before next spring, and with the advice to me to buy a load *now*, and put in my cellar, he took his leave.

THURSDAY, Oct. 4th.—The wind which has been roving around for some days in search of the equinoctial, fixed itself steadily in the south last night and blew strong till it brought it. This morning the rain commenced and continued most of the day with strong wind, which changed to the north shortly after one o'clock. Thermometer 64°. I was skeptical yesterday, when a man predicted rain before tonight, but he assured me if I only had faith, it would rain. My faith in him was some-

what weakened, in that he offered to bet me that his prediction would prove true. If he had told me that he based his prediction upon his corns, or rheumatic pains, or some other bodily ailment, instead of his faith, I should have been more ready to credit it.

FRIDAY, Oct. 5th.—Cool and cloudy with a northerly wind. The equinoctial was emphatic but of short duration. In many localities damage is reported from the excessive rain, and shipping suffered from the severity of the wind. Thermometer 52°. Clear and cool in the evening with indications of frost. A successful concert of the musical convention at the Opera House in the evening.

SATURDAY, Oct. 6th.—The wind changed to the west about 9 o'clock last evening and clouds came to the rescue, averting the threatened frost. The wind is a little north of west this morning, with thick clouds, and cool. The robins held a mass meeting in the apple-tree and resolved to go south. A belated cricket chirped feebly last evening as if wearied in closing out his concert for the season, and indications of fall weather are unmistakable. Thermometer 48°. A cyclone of political conventions swept over the county today. The Republican Senatorial Convention at Port Byron renominated the Hon. Wm. B. Woodin for Senator. A Prohibition Assembly Convention at the same place nominates Rev. Julius Robbins of this city for Member of Assembly. The Democratic County Convention met at the Court House and nominated Thomas Reed of Auburn for Sheriff and S. Edwin Day of Moravia for County Judge. The Workingmen's County Convention met at the Academy of Music and nominated H. V. Howland for County Judge and Charles Hoskins for Sheriff. The Dissenters' Convention met at the same place and endorsed the nominees of the Workingmen's Convention. The woods are full of candidates this fall, and unless the intelligent voter exercises great care, he will vote for somebody that his political friends did not intend he should.

SUNDAY, Oct. 7th.—The morning opens bright with wind in the south, but the sky becomes overcast as the day progresses. Thermometer 59°. Rev. Mr. Stacy enters upon his pastoral duties with the Wall St. Methodist Church.

MONDAY, Oct. 8th.—A strong southeast wind commenced during the night, continued with much violence during most of the day, the result doubtless of the ordering of cautionary signals at Oswego, Rochester, and Buffalo by the department at Washington. A slight rain fell during most of the afternoon. Thermometer 55°. The trial of the convict Thorpe for murder commenced in the Oyer and Terminer.

TUESDAY, Oct. 9th.—The morning opened clear with the wind in the southwest and warmer. The clouds gathered somewhat as the day advanced, but cleared in the evening, with the wind in the north. Thermometer 60°. Mr. H. V. Howland declines to accept the triple honor of the nomination for county judge tendered him by the Prohibition and Workingmen's and Dissenters' Convention. A new moon, not unlike a section of melon rind in appearance, hangs dreamily above the western horizon in the evening.

Of the events of general interest which have transpired since my last report, I note the following :

The Turco-Russian War has changed little in its aspect, although much fighting has transpired and severe losses have been sustained on both sides. The Russians have been unable to secure Plevna, although repeated attempts have been made to storm the place. Nor have the Turks been successful in wresting the Schipka Pass from the Russians, although desperately attempting it. In Armenia no movement has been made, until within the last few days the Russians made a spasmodic effort to cut off the Turkish communications with Kars, but without success. The campaign for the year may be said to be at an end, and is in all respects extremely discreditable to Russian Generalship.

General Grant has remained in England and Scotland, and has been feted until he has acquired considerable facility at speechmaking. The President has made quite an extended tour of some of the western and southern states during the month, and seems to have been enthusiastically welcomed, especially in the south.

Gen. Howard has been chasing and fighting the Nez Perces, but with little prospect of exterminating them. The campaign seems destined to continue into another season. A delegation of friendly Indians visited Washington, and made their wants known to the President, their Great Father, limiting their demands to ulster overcoats for the whole tribe, mowers and reapers, brick school-houses and such other conveniences as their white brethren indulged in.

As it is the first state which has tried the experiment so far as I am advised, I note the fact that the State of Colorado voted down a proposed amendment to the constitution of the state, conferring upon women the right of suffrage.

The month has been notable for the failure of Savings Banks, both in the east and west, and startling developments of stupendous frauds have been made, notably those of Morton, of Philadelphia, in the over issue of street railway shares, and the raising of insurance certificates by Gilman of New York,—the fraud in the latter instance amounting to upwards of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. So ends my first fall record.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*



## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, Oct. 10, 1877.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann:*

I deem it prudent to preface my record for the coming month, with the remark, that the political sky is somewhat lurid just now, and will probably become more so as the month advances. The unoffending citizen is quietly probed on all available occasions as to his predilections for this or that candidate, or this or that policy, until even the humblest individual can scarcely fail to realize that he is an important cog in the great wheel that runs the political machine. This society however, constitutionally, and from natural selection, ignores politics. If therefore, I should inadvertently note some fact in my record which might be construed in the interest of any particular candidate or policy, it should be charged to my own indiscretion, and not be regarded as reflecting the views of the society. With this anchor to the windward, I resume my task.

The morning opens with a brisk southeast wind, and cloudy. A slight rain in the afternoon. Thermometer 62°. The Historical Society at its session last evening, listened to an elaborate, carefully prepared, and highly interesting biographical sketch of the late Elijah Miller, prepared by the Hon. B. F. Hall.

State elections were held yesterday in Iowa and Ohio, the result being timidly Republican in the former, and apathetically Democratic in the latter. The process of plating the

badly dilapidated pavement of Genesee St. with tar and gravel, commenced today, at the corner of South St. A conference of Adventists commenced its session at the Academy of Music. The Democratic Senatorial convention meets at Port Byron, and nominates the Hon. Chas. N. Ross for Senator.

The Republican Judicial convention of the 7th judicial district, meets at Rochester, and re-nominates Judge Charles C. Dwight of this city, for Justice of the Supreme Court. The Common Council meets in the evening and designates the polling places for the coming election, and directs the collection of the city tax levy.

An esteemed member of the Historical Society, whose veracity is unimpeachable, assures me that a shower of snails in shells fell in his garden during the storm of Monday night. He knows that they "rained down," and showed me a handful of the brown, translucent shells, about an eighth of an inch in length and of uniform size. It is not uncommon for toads, ashes, sulphur, etc., to "rain down," and I remember to have read of a shower of fresh beef somewhere down in Kentucky, but I think a shower of snails has never before been reported. Possibly they came from the moons of Mars. I think it more probable, however, that a colony of snails somewhere indiscreetly got on a lark, and were incontinently swept up by a cyclone, to be landed in my neighbor's garden. At any rate the snails were there after the shower.

THURSDAY, Oct. 11th.—Although the wind had continued in the south and west during the day, the air has been cool, and a drizzling rain most of the day has given us a foretaste of what we may expect during the coming fall. The jury in the case of Thorpe brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree, and the court took up the second murder trial, that of Brown for killing Rooney. Mr. Moses announces his declination of the nomination for senator, by the workingmen's con-

vention. The city treasurer advertises the collection of the city tax.

My neighbor reports a second invoice of snails last night. I think he is becoming slightly skeptical as to the "raining down" theory, and inclines to the belief that their coming may be accounted for, somewhat after the manner of the formation of dew; that is, that they arise from the ground and condense as it were, upon the sidewalks, etc. Scientists will of course, draw their own conclusion,—it is my duty simply to record the fact.

FRIDAY, Oct. 12th.—A cold rain from the northwest characterizes the morning and most of the day. Thermometer 47°. The second trial of Riley for shooting Harris in this city December last, commenced today.

Brown was acquitted and discharged from custody.

SATURDAY, Oct. 13th.—Cloudy with wind in the northwest, but warmer. Thermometer 53°. Clear in the afternoon. The jury convicted Riley of manslaughter in the third degree, and he was sentenced to the Elmira Reformatory,—his being the first sentence to that institution from this county. Thorpe was today sentenced to be hanged on the 7th of December next, and the court adjourned to November 8, to try the remaining prisoners charged with murder, each of whom is claimed by his counsel to be insane. Gilman, the forger of insurance scrip, pleaded guilty before Recorder Hackett, and is sentenced to state prison for five years, the shortest term the crime admits of.

SUNDAY, Oct. 14th.—October is dealing kindly with us, notwithstanding the few inclement days of last week. The sky was sufficiently threatening this morning to afford an excuse for fair-weather christians to stay at home, but at noon it was cloudless and the air balmy as a spring day. Thermometer 78°. Wind slight from the south.

MONDAY, Oct. 15th.—A bright clear day with wind from the south. Thermometer 72°. Congress convened in extra session today, and the house elected Mr. Randall speaker.

TUESDAY, Oct. 16th.—Yesterday sat up late last night, beguiled by the "sweet silver light of the moon," and today gets up this morning moody and cross, with a northwest rain. It clears shortly after nine o'clock, but soon clouds over and the evening brings rain. Thermometer 60°. News from the elections held in France on Sunday last, report a Republican victory, but with a net gain to the Imperialists. An important victory of the Russians over the Turks near Kars yesterday, is reported. The Boards of Registration hold their first meeting today to register voters for the approaching election.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 17th.—A day of cloud and sunshine with northerly wind and thermometer at 56°. The political community is much exercised today by the withdrawal of Mr. Woodin from the senatorial contest. The sole remaining candidate will be lonesome until some one is put in the field to share his solitude.

THURSDAY, Oct. 18th.—Another partially cloudy day with south wind and thermometer 64°. A report comes that the Egyptian Obelisk, known as Cleopatra's needle, which was being transported to London, was abandoned at sea, off Cape Finisterre, during a gale last Sunday evening. It would be sad to have so time-honored a relic become food for fishes.

FRIDAY, Oct. 19th.—A dark morning with a modest rain from the northwest. Thermometer 52°. The Cleopatra's needle which was abandoned at sea, was picked up all right after the gale, having floated some 160 miles, and is again headed or pointed for London.

The workingmen hold a meeting at the Court House, in the evening, which is addressed by a Mr. Junio of Syracuse. Mr. F. G. Day and wife, leave for New York today to sail in tomorrow's steamer for Europe, where Mr. Day enters upon his duties as commercial agent at Geetsemude, a small port near Bremen.

SATURDAY, Oct. 20th.—The rain continued most of the night, and the morning opens cool and rainy with smart north-west wind. Thermometer 42°.

The Prohibition convention at Weedsport, nominates Samuel Bibbins for Senator. Mr. Bibbins resides in Brutus, and is old enough to make a good senator.

SUNDAY, Oct. 21st.—A dismal October day with rain from the northwest. Thermometer 44°. Gilman, the insurance forger, reaches Auburn today, having been transferred from Sing Sing Prison. Having been formerly actively interested in the theoretical consideration of prison discipline, he will now have an opportunity to study its practical aspects.

MONDAY, Oct. 22nd.—The weather has recovered from its late unpleasantness and is clear and bright, but cool with north-west wind. Thermometer 45. The Republican Senatorial convention re-assembles at Port Byron, and nominates Hon. Theo. M. Pomeroy of this city, for senator. John T. Pingree, Esq., of this city, is today nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court, by the Democratic Judicial convention at Rochester. I surmise that this nomination was not made in the expectation of the success of the candidate, but rather in deference to the wishes of the intelligent and patriotic elector who always "wants to vote a clean ticket."

An explosion of fire damp in a mine near Glasgow, Scotland, resulted in the death of upwards of 230 miners. This is said to be the most serious casualty of the kind which has ever occurred.

TUESDAY, Oct. 23rd.—The mercury descended to 32° about 8½ o'clock last evening, but soon took an upward turn, not in time however to prevent a slight frost, which nipped the tenderer leaves of out door vegetation. This is the first frost of the season.

The morning opens clear and bright, with a slight westerly wind. Thermometer 59°. The Greenback convention at Sodus

today, nominates B. B. Willey, Esq., of this city for senator, and endorses Mr. Pingree's nomination for judge. I think Mr. Willey will not decline the nomination,—he is too zealous for that. Of course it is impossible at this early day, to estimate accurately the Greenback vote, but from the best information I can gather, his chances of success are of that shadowy nature, which is not calculated to encourage any but the most sanguine natures. Still if he runs, he will get one vote at least, and that will give him a place among the "Scattering." This I believe completes the local nominations, and gives all parties a ticket, except the "Breadwinners," who have only invaded our locality to give our distinguished fellow citizen, Mr. Worden, a place on their state ticket. His star seems to be in the ascendant, as he is running for three different state offices on as many different tickets.

The Hook and Ladder Co. celebrate their 53rd anniversary in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 24th.—The morning opens warm, with a wind from the south, the sunshine slightly subdued by light clouds. Thermometer 65°. The workingmen hold another meeting at the Court House in the evening, and catch a tartar in their speaker, a Mr. Daggett of Brooklyn, who expressed his approval of the efforts made to suppress the riots at Pittsburgh last summer, whereupon he was silenced by his audience, and more congenial local talent was called in to enlighten the assembled multitude.

The crickets chirruped merrily in the evening, but nearly all the summer birds have taken their leave, the last to go, as they were first to come, being the robins and bluebirds.

THURSDAY, Oct 25th.—A drizzling rain from the north, with thermometer at 48°. The remains of the late Colonel Keogh, who was slain at the Custar massacre, were buried with military honors in Fort Hill cemetery today, in the lot of Mr. Throop

Martin. Memorial services for the late Rev. Dr. Edwin Hall were held at the First Presbyterian Church in the evening.

FRIDAY, Oct. 26th.—A cold northeast rain prevails the whole day. Thermometer 40°. Items of historical interest are rare just now. I conclude that the public is too much engaged in politics to do anything for history. And still the canvass is progressing with unusual quiet. No public meetings have been held in this locality, and few in other parts of the state.

The cordial greetings of candidates with their constituents and the brief, earnest consultations on the street at the casual meetings of political leaders, are about the only signs of political activity. Political tramps on the street corners, persistently appeal to candidates for donations of the diameter of from five cents to a dollar, with pleas of past service and future good intentions. One of these way-farers, a one-eyed man from the south part of the county, accosted me today, with the assurance that there were twenty men in his neighborhood who were not going to vote this fall. He could get every man of them for ten dollars, and earnestly appealed to me to invest in the enterprise. I assured him that I was not a candidate for any office, simply a local historian. I reminded him of the civil service law, of the amendments to the constitution, suggesting for his reading certain treatises on moral science, and left him inquiring where he could find a candidate for senator.

SATURDAY, Oct. 27th.—Another lowery day, with wind stubbornly in the northeast. Ex-Governor Tilden, who returned from his European tour on Thursday, is serenaded in New York in the evening, and makes a speech.

SUNDAY, Oct. 28th.—Much in contrast with last Sunday, the day opens clear and warm, with wind in the southeast. Thermometer 59°.

MONDAY, Oct. 29th.—The morning opens clear, with wind in the south, changing to the northwest shortly after noon, and blowing briskly. Thermometer 60°, with scattering clouds.

The notorious Aurelius Avenue bridge, which has been closed some time for repairs, is today re-opened to the public.

TUESDAY, Oct. 30th.—A charming October day, bright, but not entirely cloudless, and cool from the northwest wind. Thermometer 51°.

Mr. Roseboom, the Prohibition candidate for sheriff, declines the honor of longer continuing in the field, and withdraws from the canvass. The disposition to withdraw prevails among candidates this season, almost to the extent of an epidemic. Fortunately it has been a fruitful season for candidates, or we might not have had enough left to make a complete ticket by election day.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 31st.—The south wind of the morning veered to the west about 9 o'clock, bringing rain which continued during the forenoon, and, with occasional intervals of sunshine, until evening. Thermometer 44°. The average temperature for the month has been 56-87°, the extremes being 84° on the 1st, and 40° on the 26th. Twenty-four days have been cloudy, on eight of which it has rained.

News came today, of the death of Prof. James Orton of Vassar College, on the 30th ult., on Lake Titicaca, in South America, at the age of 47. He was on his homeward journey from his explorations in Peru. He was a native of the neighboring village of Seneca Falls.

THURSDAY, Nov. 1st.—A cool, cloudy day, with slight westerly wind, ushers in November. Thermometer 46°.

A hose company from Elmira, visits the city to engage in a championship race at the Fair Grounds, with Niagara Hose Co. The contest was deferred on account of the unpropitious state of the track.



The Chief of Police reports seventy-four arrests for October, thirty-seven of which were for intoxication. United States Senator Oliver P. Morton, of Indiana, died today after a lingering illness, in the 55th year of his age.

FRIDAY, Nov. 2nd.—The morning opens with a fierce south wind and rain. The wind kept up most of the day, veering to the north in the afternoon when the rain ceased. Thermometer 54.

A single scull race between Eldred and Atwater, announced for today on the big dam, was postponed on account of the unfavorable weather. The aurora lighted the northern sky late in the evening.

SATURDAY, Nov. 3rd.—A brisk westerly wind, cloudy and cool. Thermometer 42. The single scull race for the championship of the big dam, between Eldred and Atwater today, resulted in the success of the latter. At night the ground froze quite solid.

SUNDAY, Nov. 4th.—The wind continues west, with a clear sky. Thermometer 42°. A long slim earthquake is reported as jarring the western part of the city at 2 o'clock A. M., making its way east, through the central portion of the state into New England. It was also felt in portions of Canada.

MONDAY, Nov. 5th.—A brisk north wind, and cloudy. Thermometer 50°. Considerable animation is noticeable in political circles today.

The Common Council meets in the evening, but transacts no business of importance. A cold rain began in the evening, which changed to snow, the first of the season.

TUESDAY, Nov. 6th.—Election day opens cold and cloudy, with northwest wind. The ground is white with a light snow which fell during the night. Thermometer 32°, having gone up 7° since morning. Election passed off quietly, a light vote being polled. Board of Education held its regular session in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 7th.—A bright clear morning, with wind in the south. Thermometer 46°. The streets are thronged with people, discussing the result of yesterday's election. Nearly every one is smoking, and notably, those who usually limit their extravagance in this direction to the use of a pipe, are this morning indulging in domestic "Havanas." The aspect of the returns is decidedly Democratic. A Democratic sheriff and county judge were elected, and a Democratic member of assembly in the first assembly district of this county. Mr. Pingree was justice of the supreme court for a few minutes, but later returns dispelled the illusion. Mr. Pomeroy was elected state senator, and of course Mr. Willey was defeated. The Democratic state ticket was elected by some 15,000 majority.

THURSDAY, Nov. 8th.—Rainy, with brisk south wind. Thermometer 47°. A marine disaster on Cayuga Lake, last evening, is reported, in which one coal barge was sunk and two others were stranded. Government should establish a life-saving station on this lake.

FRIDAY, Nov. 9th.—Warm with south wind, which soon changed to the north, bringing rain. Thermometer 47°, having fallen 9° since morning.

Thomas Davis was found dead in the 7th ward this morning with his skull fractured, whether the result of accident or foul play is not yet determined.

The trial of Lester Brotherton, for the murder of Moon in the town of Ira last summer, commenced in the Oyer and Terminer today.

An elderly lady named Merrill, residing on MacMaster street, drowned herself in a cistern today, during a fit of temporary insanity.

SATURDAY, Nov. 10th.—A dull, cloudy, cold morning with north wind. Thermometer 26°.

I notice in the evening the names of the streets displayed on the street lamps at the corner of North and Genesee streets. This is the first of its kind in our city and is worthy of general introduction.

Prominent political leaders appear to be especially fortunate just now in falling in with reporters, and airing their views as to the causes and significance of the result of the late election.

SUNDAY, Nov. 11th.—A bright, cool day with wind in the southwest. Thermometer 38°. The Rev. Dr. Hawley, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, enters upon the twenty-first year of his pastorate with that society today.

MONDAY, Nov. 12th.—A partially clear day with wind in the west. Thermometer 44°. The coroner's jury in the Davis case continue their investigations, but without solving the mystery of his death. An adjourned meeting of the Common Council is held this evening.

TUESDAY, Nov. 13th.—A bright cloudless day with wind in the northeast changing to southwest during the forenoon. Thermometer 43°. A little amelioration of the temperature would warrant the expectation of Indian summer.

The supervisors meet today as a board of canvassers, to canvass the vote at the late election, making Mr. Lamey of this city chairman.

Of the events of general interest since my last, I note the following :

On the 5th of October, Chief Joseph and his band of hostile Nez Perces Indians surrendered to General Miles, thus ending for the present the Indian hostilities in the territories.

The ministers plenipotentiary and envoys extraordinary from the United States government to his Indian majesty, Sitting Bull, were granted audience with that dignitary, who listened to them in silence and responded in the same manner. He is

evidently not disposed to treat for peace and announces his determination to renew hostilities as soon as his braves have had a breathing spell.

The President and cabinet visited the state fair at Richmond, Va., inspecting the stock, making little speeches, shaking hands and otherwise conducting themselves in a conciliatory manner towards our southern brethren.

The annual elections have been held in several of the states resulting much as was anticipated, except possibly in Ohio, where at the October election an unexpected strength was developed by the workingmen's party, giving the state to the Democrats by a plurality. While in New York the Democrats elect their state ticket, the Republicans retain their ascendancy in both branches of the legislature. In New Jersey the cosmopolitan general, McClellan, is elected governor by a handsome majority. This is regarded by many as the Fair Oaks of a Peninsular campaign for the Presidency in 1880.

Congress still continues its extra session, making little progress with the army appropriation bill, for which it was especially called, but agonizing itself over the Resumption Act and the currency question. General Grant has at length torn himself away from his British friends and betaken himself across the channel to Paris, where he seems to have been received with much consideration. He is not reported as having made any speeches as yet, possibly because he distrusts his French accent, and does not wish to take the risk of being misinterpreted to French dignitaries.

The Turco-Russian War has taken a sudden and unexpected turn since my last, the Russians having put new life and vigor into their campaign. In Bulgaria they have completely invested Plevna, the Turkish stronghold, which they repeatedly unsuccessfully assaulted, and are now subjecting it to regular siege. In Armenia they disastrously routed the Turks near Kars, on

the 15th of October, forcing them to retreat into the stronghold of Kars and to Erzeroum, the capital of Armenia. At a subsequent battle near the latter city, the Turks were again routed and the Russian Army is now at the gates of Erzeroum, while Kars is closely besieged. The prospects of the Russians today are as brilliant as were those of the Turks at the close of my last month's report.

And here, my dear doctor, ends my report for the month.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,

*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., Nov. 14, 1877.

*My dear Doctor Schliemann:*

I am not surprised that historians, gleaning their facts from the musty records and defaced manuscripts of by-gone generations, even with the greatest care, have at times to be corrected by more leisurely students, following after them with more varied sources of information. For I find that culling my sprays of local history fresh from the blooming garden of current events, I am obliged now and then, to cast out from my collection a weed, which has deceived me by its likeness to something of value. Of course I am largely dependent upon the local press for information, and I think our press aims to be accurate and reliable in its statements. However, lured by the repeated assurances of the papers, I was led to state in my last month's report, that our townsman, Mr. F. G. Day, had been appointed U. S. consul at Bremen, a commission of no little magnitude and importance, whereas, I am since informed that his position is that of commercial agent at a small port near Bremen, which has not yet grown to an importance entitling it to a place on the map. I should be gratified if my first statement were the fact, but history must guard its veracity, even at the cost of a severe shrinkage in local honors. I make the correction here lest you might be led to suspect from the erasure in my last report, that some profane hand had been tampering with the record.

The morning opens clear, with a southerly wind, brisk enough to bring clouds early in the forenoon. Thermometer 56°.

The Historical Society last evening, listened to the completion of Judge Hall's biographical sketch of the late Judge Miller. The U. S. Senate today confirms the appointment of N. P. Clark, Esq., as postmaster in this city, whose nomination for the position was made shortly after President Hayes' accession. The suspense does not seem to have borne heavily upon Mr. Clark.

The jury in the Brotherton case gave a verdict of murder in the first degree, and the court took up the trial of Cora Young, for shooting Barrett.

The county canvassers completed their work, and organized as a Board of Supervisors, electing Hicks Anthony of Ledyard, chairman.

The total vote of the county at the late election, by the official count, was 12,580, a falling off of about 2,600 from last year. The vote is politically distributed as follows: Republican 6,687, Democratic 5,097, Workingmen and Greenbackers 554, Prohibition 242. The Greenback vote proper appears to have been about 70, Senator Willey being the gauge.

Rev. Dr. Henry W. Warren of Philadelphia, initiated the lecture course of the Young Men's Christian Association, at the Opera House in the evening, having for his subject, "The Forces in a Sunbeam."

THURSDAY, Nov. 15th.—A dark, rainy morning, with south wind. Thermometer 51°. A disastrous fire in Chicago last night, destroyed nearly a million dollars worth of property. Four persons were killed and several others injured by falling debris.

The expenses of the city for the poor are reported for the year, at \$20,622.36, being an increase over those of the previous year, of nearly \$9,500.

An explosion of fire damp in a coal mine at Scranton, Pa., caused the death of two miners. Later reports of the similar disaster at High Blantyre, in Scotland, reduce the casualties to 215. I learn also that the most serious disaster of this kind, was that of the year 1866, at the Oaks Colliery, near Barnaby, in the county of Yorkshire, England, when 340 miners were lost.

FRIDAY, Nov. 16th.—The morning opens with a southwest wind and cloudy, raining slightly during the forenoon, but clearing up bright in the afternoon, as the wind veered to the west. Thermometer 52°.

SATURDAY, Nov. 17th.—The weather for a few days, barring the clouds, has been quite like Indian summer. This morning is somewhat overcast, with wind in the south, a slight rain falling about noon. Thermometer 48°. The afternoon and early evening were clear, a thunder shower going southwest of us in the evening.

The jury in the case of Cora Young rendered a verdict of not guilty, and the court took up the case of the convict Barr, for the murder of keeper Casler.

A base-ball club for the ensuing year is organized in the evening, with a capital stock of \$1,500; \$800 paid up and the balance in market.

SUNDAY, Nov. 18th.—A fierce northeast wind set in about one o'clock in the morning and continued during the day. The sky has been overcast, without rain or snow, and the thermometer stands at 33.

MONDAY, Nov. 19th.—Cold and cloudy, with northwest wind. Thermometer 29°. News is received of the capture of Kars by the Russians in a night attack, the assault having commenced Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, and being continued until 8 o'clock Sunday morning, when the place was captured.

The regular meeting of the Common Council is held in the evening.



TUESDAY, Nov. 20th.—A bright, clear day with northeast wind succeeds a cold night. Thermometer 32°.

The U. S. Court commences its session in the supervisor's room at the court house, but subsequently adjourns to the city hall, the court room being occupied by the Oyer and Terminer in the trial of Barr. The Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children celebrates the 25th anniversary of its organization, by a reception at the asylum in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 21st.—Another cloudless day with wind in the south. Thermometer 42°. The wind freshens toward night, a haze gathers, soon growing to clouds, betokening a coming storm. The Rev. Dr. Newman of Washington lectures at the Opera House in the evening, in the Y. M. C. A. course. Subject "Babylon and the Far East."

THURSDAY, Nov. 22nd.—A rainy day with south wind. Thermometer 39°.

The jury in the case of Barr rendered a verdict of murder in the second degree, and the court sentenced him to the State Prison at Auburn for life.

Brotherton was sentenced to be executed on the 17th day of January next. The court then adjourned.

FRIDAY, Nov. 23rd.—A balmy, spring-like morning with south wind. Thermometer 50°.

SATURDAY, Nov. 24th.—Still warm with southeast wind, and rain at intervals during the day. Thermometer 53°.

The U. S. gunboat *Huron* was wrecked on the coast of North Carolina, early this morning. About one hundred lives were lost by the disaster.

Moses H. Grinnell, a prominent merchant of New York, died, aged 75 years.

SUNDAY, Nov. 25th.—The wind still holds steadily in the southeast, and the rain falls copiously during the forenoon. Thermometer 49°.

MONDAY, Nov. 26th.—Cloudy, with wind still in the south-east. Thermometer 54°.

Reports are received of extensive damages in the region of the James and Potomac rivers, from heavy rains. Edson Bishop, for many years a resident of Montezuma, but latterly of this city, died today at the age of 71.

I notice in the daily papers the announcement of the death, at the county poor house, of Peter Beardsley. The date of his decease, nor his age is given. I am not surprised at this, for he was of that thin, insubstantial make-up, that his demise might have occurred several days before it was noticed by his attendant, and as to his age,—he might have been fifty, he might have been one hundred and fifty. He is identified as the whilom porter at the old Auburn House. In the palmy days of old fashioned trunks covered with hair-preserved cowhide, decorated with rows of large, round-headed brass nails, with the owner's initials stiffly embroidered on the top with the same shining emblems, he may be said to have been in his prime. But with the advent of the capacious companion of the modern traveller, he weakened as it were, on his profession and sought other avenues of wealth and preferment. As is not unusual with those who change their calling late in life, he was not eminently successful in new pursuits, and was occasionally reduced to the necessity of appealing to his friends for small temporary loans. It is due to him to say, that he always invested such loans in ways that would minister most to his immediate enjoyment, and to forgetfulness of the cares which bore heavily upon him. He was known indiscriminately as Pete Foster and Pete Beardsley, and as it is doubtful if any storied urn or monumental pile will transmit his name to posterity, I embalm his memory on this page.

TUESDAY, Nov. 27th.—The wind has veered slightly to the west, and the morning is partially cloudy. Thermometer 50°. The absorbing topic of conversation today, is the indictment by the grand jury of the U. S. court, of a prominent citizen, for smuggling across the Canadian frontier. The circumstance develops two curious features; one, that almost every man one meets, relates an instance of successful smuggling which has come to his notice; the other, that the successful smuggler is viewed with far greater leniency, than the one who has been detected at it.

The firemen turn out in the afternoon, to bury a deceased comrade, Andrew E. Corbett by name, and by a singular coincidence, two fires occur in the eastern part of the city in the evening, the victim in each instance being a barn.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 28th.—The eighth day of continuous south wind. Clear in the morning, but clouding as the day advances. Thermometer 42°. The streets abound in Thanksgiving poultry, which is selling at very reasonable rates, the best turkeys at from 12 to 14 cents per lb.

THURSDAY, Nov. 29th.—Thanksgiving day opens with slight spittings of snow, the wind being in the west, veering to the north. Thermometer 36°. The day is observed, in most of the churches, with services appropriate to the occasion.

Camilla Urso's troupe gave a concert at the Opera House in the evening, under the auspices of the Grand Army Post. A large audience attended.

FRIDAY, Nov. 30th.—A bleak west wind, with feeble attempts at snowing, wafts November into the past. The day is cloudy and the ground is frozen quite firmly. Thermometer 30°. The average temperature for the month has been 43.4°, the highest being 56° on the 14th, and the lowest, 26° on the 10th. Twenty-four days have been cloudy, upon nine of which it has rained.

Six only have been clear, or partially so. The wind has been in the south and southwest seventeen days, in the north five, and in the west five.

SATURDAY, Dec. 1st.—The first snow-storm of the season, folds the earth this morning in its strange white silence. The wind is due west. and the Thermometer stands at 30°.

The police report for November shows ninety arrests, 56 of which were for intoxication. Hon. John V. L. Pruyn, state chancellor, died at Clifton Springs, aged 75 years.

SUNDAY, Dec. 2nd.—A sharp keen air, with west wind. The sun illuminated the elaborately frosted trees for—a few minutes in the morning, when clouds intervened for the remainder of the forenoon. The mercury is reported at 22° below zero at Utica, but its lowest point here was 10° above. At 1 P. M. it stood at 32°, with light clouds, clearing in the P. M.

MONDAY, Dec. 3rd.—Clear and bright, with wind from the south. The county court commences its session today. Thermometer 40°.

The Board of Supervisors re-convened after their Thanksgiving vacation. Congress quietly glided over from its special to the regular session, and listened to the President's annual message. In the evening the Common Council meets in regular session, and seems fired with zeal in ordering crosswalks, occasionally one in the neighborhood of some alderman's residence.

TUESDAY, Dec. 4th.—A warm south wind, cloudy and dark, with slight rain in the late afternoon. Thermometer 40°. The Board of Education holds its regular monthly session in the evening.

Mrs. G. Osborn Letchworth reads in the course of the Y. M. C. A., at the Opera House, and Prof. Warren, organist at St. Peters', takes a benefit at the Academy of Music, in a concert wherein local artists abound.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 5th.—A dull, warm, headachy day, with brisk south wind and light rain. Thermometer 52°. A smart rain from the west in the evening.

THURSDAY, Dec. 6th.—A day of mingled cloud and sunshine, with wind in the west, slightly inclining to the north. Thermometer 37°. A slight snow in the afternoon.

The Common Council meets in extra session in the evening, and adopts measures to purchase stone to be prepared for macadamizing the streets, by the indigent portion of the community, who rely upon public bounty for sustenance.

FRIDAY, Dec. 7th.—A sullen cloudy morning, with westerly wind, favoring the south slightly, the sky clearing in the afternoon. Thermometer 30°. The canal closes today by official appointment, but the weather hardly seems to demand it.

Harvey Thorpe, the convict murderer, was executed at the county jail today at about 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  A. M. He passed through the terrible ordeal with remarkable calmness and fortitude. Quite a large concourse of people, mainly fellow countrymen of the condemned, came into the city to be present at the execution, and three or four hundred gathered in the vicinity of the jail as the hour of execution approached. What motive induced them, no one can say; perhaps a morbid curiosity to see something of the execution, or a sympathetic desire to sustain the doomed man by their presence, at his last moment, or more probably with the hope of seeing the lifeless body after the outraged law had exacted its penalty. In the last particular they were permitted to gratify their curiosity.

SATURDAY, Dec. 8th.—A southwest wind, with clouds through which the sun occasionally struggles, characterizes the day. Thermometer 35°.

The Cayuga County Agricultural Society held its annual meeting at the Court House and organized for the year.

Notably absent from the street today is the Saturday afternoon cry of the newsboy, "*Saracuse Sunday News*." It is rumored that the publication of the paper has been discontinued. A special session of the Board of Education is held in the evening.

SUNDAY, Dec. 9th,—Cooler, with northwest wind and cloudy. Thermometer 27°. A lazy, inefficient snow-storm prevails in the afternoon.

MONDAY, Dec. 10th.—The wind retains its partiality for the warm quarter and this morning is due south. The sky is overcast. Thermometer 31°. An ambitious snow-storm sets in about noon, as if it would show its independence of the north wind in bringing sleighing. It soon tires out however. Buffalo Bill, with his real live bears and home-made Indians, draws the largest house of the season, at an entertainment in the evening.

TUESDAY, Dec. 11th.—A dark day with westerly wind and thermometer at 42°. A report is received of the capture of Plevna by the Russians. The news comes so near the edge of my month's record that I scarcely dare note it lest it be contradicted tomorrow. The safety of the steamship *City of Berlin*, of the Inman line, for which fears have been entertained for some days, is assured by the news of her arrival at Queenstown, having broken her shaft two days out, on her outward trip.

The "Way-Side Inn," under the auspices of the Young Ladies' Benevolent Association, opens its hospitable doors at the Academy of Music, in the afternoon and evening, where the fortune-favored and benevolently disposed can invest a surplus dollar in a commendable charity.

Of the month's events of more general importance, I have few to note. Congress continued its special session through to the regular session, the chief interest in its work being centered in the position taken by Senators Patterson of South Carolina and Conover of Florida, on the question of admitting two Democratic

Senators, one from South Carolina and one from Louisiana, which resulted in their admission, thus putting the senate in a pretty evenly balanced position politically. Rumors of another Indian outbreak prevail, which may lead to another campaign.

The successes of the Russians in securing Kars and Plevna, indicate that this source of items will soon be shut off. The Servians seem about to unite their fortunes with Russia, but there seems to be little need of it.

I fear that some items of interest may have escaped my notice during the month, but I hope no unreliable statements have crept in. Hoping that the coming month may be more fruitful of agreeable events than the past has been, I remain,

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12, 1877.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann :*

I have become convinced that the historian should be a man of intense leisure, that he may abound in instructive comparisons and philosophical deductions, which must otherwise be left for the reader to study out for himself. This would add an interest and value to history which is now largely lost. Bare facts are uninteresting except for comparison, and as uninviting as the multiplication table, except as foreshadowing repetitions. The abstract number *ten* has no charms; connect the word dollars with it, and it at once arrests the attention of the most stolid. And this is what dissatisfies me with my record. I have barely time to note facts, none to devote to the philosophy of the facts. I should be glad to show why the mercury stands at 44° today, when it was at 42° yesterday: to predict which way the wind will be tomorrow from the fact that it is southwest today: to analyze the proceedings of the Common Council and calculate the chances of an extra session: to discuss the moral effect of an extended session of the Board of Supervisors, and other matters of equal importance, but too many cares press upon me.

I am reminded that in my last month's report I neglected to mention the immolation of the brigade staff of this district, and the consolidation of the 49th Regiment with another brigade, with headquarters at Syracuse. This action places a large number of valiant officers of our local army upon the retired list



without pay. It is to be regretted as tending to dampen military ardor in our community. Of course privates are somewhat essential to any well appointed military organization, but the crowning glory of the cake is its frosting. To ride a horse which does not sheer at the sight of the bass drum, or "rare up" at the noise of a firecracker on parade day, is one of the empyrean raptures due to the victories of peace. Again, on the field of battle one can reach the enemy so much more expeditiously on horseback, and retreat so much more speedily in case of disaster, that every conscientious private is justified in his ambition to win a place on the staff. It is to be hoped that the 49th will not falter in its drill, or rifle practice, and that a staff, or at least part of one, will soon be given it to lean upon. Meantime, rioters and invaders will make a note of the Storke cadets, who will doubtless maintain their organization until they outgrow their uniforms.

Today takes one back to the spring-time, by its genial warmth and bright sunshine. The wind is barely sufficient to point the vane to the southwest, where it holds steadily during the day. Thermometer 44°.

Mr. Perrigo tells me that the cocks have been crowing for the past two nights, indicating a change of weather.

The news of the capture of Plevna by the Russians, with its whole garrison, is confirmed. A sortie was made, but the Russian lines were too strong to be broken.

The Historical Society, last evening, was entertained by a most complete and interesting history of the press of Cayuga County, prepared and read by E. G. Storke, Esq.

Senator Conkling today, succeeds in defeating the confirmation by the U. S. Senate, of the President's appointees for collector and naval officer, of the port of New York.

Miss Nella F. Brown gives recitations in the evening, at the Opera House, in the Y. M. C. A. lecture course.

THURSDAY, Dec. 13th.—A good day to go fishing,—dark, lowery and warm, with wind in the west,—not exactly the wind that old Isaac Walton would have preferred, but good enough for the time of year. The wind blows briskly during the day, changing to north in the late afternoon, bringing rain, which soon changes to snow. Thermometer 43°, being 7° lower than at 7 A. M.

George W. Rawson, a justice of the Supreme Court, died suddenly at Clyde, aged 53 years.

Editors are so scarce, that any personal items concerning them always possess a rare interest. I feel therefore, that I am especially fortunate in being able to include in my record, the marriage today, of Henry D. Peck, Esq., one of the editors of the *Auburn Daily Advertiser*, to Miss Lydia, daughter of M. M. Olmsted, Esq., of this city.

FRIDAY, Dec. 14th.—A day in marked contrast with yesterday, cool, clear and bright, with west wind and thermometer at 32°. William F. Dean, long a respected resident of the city, died today, aged 70 years. A beautiful halo around the moon in the evening, portends a storm at hand.

SATURDAY, Dec. 15th.—Warmer, with south wind, the sun obscured by light clouds. Thermometer 49°. A light rain in the evening. Servia, having declared war against the Turk, today crosses the frontier and unites her fortunes with Russia. There seems to be little risk in the step, and still in the event of complications, resulting in a general European war, it may be hazardous.

By the way, the advent of Servia upon the stage of action, brings us a fresh invoice of those unpronounceable names with which Russia and Turkey have been regaling us during the past season. I wonder how children learn to spell in those countries, and whether they pronounce the syllables as they spell.

I do not remember to have seen any poetry written about the war. I suppose it is on account of these outlandish names. American poets, however enthusiastic and sympathetic, of course could do nothing. Imagine the mystic Lowell, the stately Bryant, the genial Longfellow, or the tender Whittier, attempting to harness such names as Todleben and Skobelev, to say nothing of the names of their staff officers, to rhythmic measures. Walt Whitman might possibly do it, with his vigin-tameters. Nor have I ever heard of a Russian or a Turkish national air. I imagine it would needs be, rather, a national monsoon. What instrument could be devised that could safely render a Russian "Hail Columbia," or a Turkish "Yankee Doodle!"

The northwestern sky is illuminated in the evening, by the burning of the Montezuma marshes.

SUNDAY, Dec. 16th.—A slightly cloudy morning, with westerly wind, clearing in the afternoon, with the wind in the north. Thermometer 44.

MONDAY, Dec. 17th.—Blue-Monday would be a misnomer for today, at least so far as the weather is concerned, for a fairer and balmier sunshine never smiled upon Bridget's well-loaded clothes-line, than today's. It seems as if the day might have been removed bodily from the late of April, and set down here in the middle of December.

Was it an oriole that I saw this morning in the leafless trees, pecking up under the dead bird's-nests and pecking at the ungathered apples? There was the same lithe motion, the striped wings, the golden yellow breast tempered somewhat by the gray hue of winter, but the overflowing song was not heard, and the cherry-blossom was not there to welcome him. Still I more than half incline to think it was one of my old springtime friends, wandered up here to see how December deals with us. I felt like shoing him off, lest he get caught in a bleak north snow-

storm. Thermometer 56°. The wind, which was south in the morning, was west at noon and north in the evening,—one of its August tricks.

The poet Whittier witnesses his 70th birthday today, on which occasion the male contributors of the Atlantic entice him, much reluctant, to a complimentary dinner; whereat the female contributors scold, some of them, because they were not asked to take part. Wait till one of them gets to be 70 years of age!

Dr. O. S. Taylor, of this city, reached his 94th birthday today. John B. Gough lectures at the Opera House in the evening, in the Y. M. C. A. course. He is a matchless story-teller.

The Common Council holds a regular session in the evening.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18th.—The morning opens clear and cold with wind in the northeast, veering to the east at noon, and to the south in the evening. Thermometer 34°. The air has been crisp and bracing, and the sky cloudless.

The Common Council holds an adjourned session in the evening and discusses contracts with the Water Works and Gas Companies without conclusion.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19th.—A strong southeast wind prevails, with occasional rain during the day, doubtless the consequence of a ring around the moon last night. Thermometer 41°.

There seems to be a strong neuralgic current in the air today. The nerves of irritable teeth stretch themselves and gape and roll over and curl up their backs and run their claws down deep into ones most sensitive being, until the sufferer yearns for a dentist's front steps to sit upon.

A very complimentary concert was given Miss Jennie Brown, at the Academy of Music in the evening.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20th.—A dull dark morning, with drizzling rain from the north. Thermometer 40°.

An explosion in a confectionery establishment in Barclay St., New York, killed some ten persons and severely wounded

several others, and occasioned a loss of some \$450,000 in property. The cause of the explosion is a mystery.

Twenty-three tramps were lodged in the station house last evening. A unique specimen of this genus, came in my way today. His unkempt hair and rough beard, which

"youth, gone out,  
Had left in ashes,"

his threadbare and ragged garments cinctured with a leathern girdle, and strapped around the calves of his legs with leathern thongs, his endlessly roomy shoes, in fact his whole make-up attested his descent in a direct line, from some patriarchal scarecrow. Across his shoulder rested a bundle of old umbrella frames and handles, and beside him on the ground stood a box which might have been his tool-chest. His face was wan and pale, his breathing short, while a consumptive cough told plainly that the long journey was near its end. He leaned against a lamp post, looking wistfully across to the City Hall, as if that might be the mecca of his pilgrimage. Through what tortuous and rugged channels his river of life may have wound, in its turbid course hitherward, no one but himself may know. As I looked at him, I wondered if some unrevealed joy did not await him, when his heart should be gladdened, as some "ninety and nine" welcomed him back to the fold.

FRIDAY, Dec. 21st.—A dark morning, with southeast wind, brightening somewhat in the afternoon. Thermometer 44°.

The graduates of the High School, hold their first alumni reunion at the High School building in the evening, followed by a supper at the Osborne House. It was altogether, a creditable and an enjoyable occasion.

SATURDAY, Dec. 22nd.—The day is dark and warm, with wind in the southwest. Thermometer 46°. An anxious, unsettled look pervades the countenance of the early Christmas buyer today.

SUNDAY, Dec. 23rd.—A dull, dark day, with wind due east, conciliating the south slightly towards evening. Thermometer 42°.

MONDAY, Dec. 24th.—A misty morning, and a dull cheerless day overhead. Thermometer 38°. The Board of Supervisors adjourned today, having been in session twenty-nine days.

The streets are thronged with people during the day and evening, and Santa Claus spends liberally of his savings,—in some instances, I fear, even draws upon his next year's pay. Everybody has a bundle, round, square, or oblong, all shapes and sizes. Children huddle about toy-shop windows, admiring the beautiful dolls, or laughing at the grotesque images, and wondering, doubtless, which it will fall to their lot to possess tomorrow. I hear people talk of the extravagance of Christmas gifts now-a-days, as compared with their day, when a striped stick of peppermint candy, or a tin whistle, or a barlow knife, was a mine of pleasure to the child. I think it smacks a little however, of the stories the elders like to tell of what they had to do when they were boys. It is worth living in this last quarter of the 19th century, if for nothing more than to see how Santa Claus has picked up in the world.

TUESDAY, Dec. 25th.—Christmas morn! There is something in the air that betokens the day. True, the frost of winter is lacking, and the white mantle which usually folds the earth in a Christmas glory, was not woven by the busy snow-flake for this Christmas. Still it is unmistakably Christmas. The quiet street, the genial sky, the pleased, contented faces of those you meet, all tell it. On what other day does universal humanity glow with cordial good-will as on Christmas day? God be praised for Christmas! From the staring doll in baby's stocking, to the memorial wreath which keeps grandma's memory green, it is altogether lovely. The morning opens with wind in the southeast, the sky slightly shaded by clouds. Thermometer 38° at 1 P. M.

with wind in the northeast, and quite clear. A dense fog prevails in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 26th.—A dull, dark day, the wind slowly swinging from the northeast to north. Thermometer 42°.

The papers speak of dandelions in bloom in the fields. I find unprotected pansies in bloom in my garden today.

This weather must be a great disappointment to the woodchuck, which is said to have provided himself with an unusual coat of fur, in view of an approaching severe winter. Later in the season, perhaps the investment will show his wisdom.

THURSDAY, Dec. 27th.—The north winds and clouds have little depressing effect as yet upon the mercury, which stands at 40°.

The county tax is advertised for collection today. The total tax upon the city is \$103,102.89, being \$11.42 tax per \$1000.

A cable dispatch announces that Trickett, the Australian oarsman, proposes to row against Courtney, for \$10,000 and the championship of the world, on any neutral waters of the U. S. It is believed that the waters of the Owasco are about as neutral as can be found, and will probably be the scene of the contest during the coming season. I notice, by the way, that the water in the lake is reported to have risen 35 inches during the past six weeks.

FRIDAY, Dec. 28th.—A bright day, but not cloudless. The wind seems to be bewildered, some of the vanes indicating northeast, others north, and others south, or southwest. The orthodox sentiment seems to be southwest, at which I record it. Thermometer 45°. A case of juvenile delinquency is reported today, wherein two little girls, aged respectively 9 and 12 years, have been engaged extensively in a systematic series of thefts from our merchants, a new feature in our community.

The benefit concert at the Court House last evening, under the management of Isaac Mink, Esq., proved a failure, from the

fact, that the Louisiana concert troupe which was the star of the evening, stepped out from under Isaac at a critical moment, and too late for him to make other arrangements. It is to be hoped that our respected fellow citizen, suffered no considerable pecuniary loss, and that his laudable efforts to secure first class talent for our people, will meet with better success in future.

SATURDAY, Dec. 29th.—A dense fog prevails the whole day. The wind is northwest and the thermometer 30°.

The absconding commissioner of excise, Murphy of New York, whose account is some \$50,000 short, proves to have fled just beyond the Canadian frontier, where he would doubtless receive a commission with as much complacency as did Sitting Bull.

A local paper records the fact of seeing a twig of cherry blossoms today, from a tree in the east part of the city.

The newspapers are generally digging up facts about past seasons to compare with the present. Even Simon Cameron testifies to the fact that 25 years ago Christmas, he ate, at Harrisburg, Pa., peaches picked from the tree that morning. The oldest inhabitant is garrulous upon the subject of the weather. If he has kept no record, he scratches his head and tries to recall the year that we had a winter just like this. He remembers that he was married in '21, that is a matter of record in the family bible; but he can not quite remember whether it was the winter of '18 or '19 that the lake did not freeze over.

SUNDAY, Dec. 30th.—There is a weird look in the frosted trees and dull sky, as if the old year grieved its approaching end. The wind is due north, thermometer 26°, and the fog thickens as the day advances. The reported explosion in the Barclay street confectionery establishment in New York, proves not to have been an explosion, but the disaster is thought to have been caused by the giving way of the walls of an adjoining building, which was stored beyond its strength with wool. I notice in



the papers the announcement of the death of Amasa Curtice at St. Paul, Minn., on the 18th instant in the 86th year of his age. Mr. Curtice was for many years a resident of this city and was a mason by trade.

MONDAY, Dec. 31st.—A bleak north wind prevails and the sky is dark with clouds. Thermometer 20°. A snow-storm of slender pretensions slowly whitens the ground in the afternoon. The average of the thermometer for the month has been 38.39°, the extremes being 56° on the 17th, and 20° on the 31st. On nine days only has the mercury been down to the freezing point. There have been eight clear days during the month.

President Hayes and wife commemorate their silver wedding today at the White House. This circumstance is not regarded as indicating the President's policy on the silver bill. A laborer named Peter Coffee was run over and killed by the cars at Cayuga.

1878. TUESDAY, January 1st.—The New Year comes in gayly, with a light vesture of snow and a brilliant sunshine. The wind is west and the thermometer indicates 29°.

One can scarce help being happy, the day is so pleasant. The number of New Year's callers is unusually large. Among the luxuriencies of this, as of every other New Year, are penny postage stamps and poetry. The extent of local correspondence is enormous. It seems as if every man you have met during the year, reports to you in items the exact cost of each interview. The neighborly chat with your grocer, as to whether a pair of chickens was more than two years old, is vividly recalled; the confidential assurance of the merchant to your wife, that *his* wife had a dress off from the same piece of calico which is incidentally mentioned in his note to you, and a thousand other incidents of like import, invest the correspondence with a lively interest. Of course the correspondence is personal rather than historical, but I think it should be preserved. Your great-

great-grand-children will be delighted to learn in perusing it, that you did not buy kerosene by the pound, nor dress buttons by the peck.

Then as to poetry,—the air is odorous with it, from the "Carrier's Address" to the "Poet's Corner" in the newspaper, which expands itself liberally for the occasion. It is but natural. In looking back over the departed year and seeing with vain regret the balance on the side of lost opportunity, we feel qualmish, and almost without effort overflow in rhyme. There is nothing so efficacious in settling the mental stomach as the peppermint of poetry. I trust that every one has written at least a few lines this New Year, but I hope that it will not all be published.

The State Legislature convenes and receives the Governor's message,—Gen'l James W. Husted being made speaker of the Assembly.

The new County Officers take their places today, Sheriff Reed being the victim of a surprise party at the jail in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 2nd. — The weather, which yesterday seemed to be taking a holiday, is today tending strictly to business. The morning opens with a westerly snow-storm, the wind veering to the north at 1 P. M. when the thermometer stands at 20°, being 10° lower than in the morning.

The Public Schools open, after their holiday recess. The Board of Education holds its regular monthly session at 12 M. having failed of a quorum last evening.

The Police report shows 69 arrests for the month of December, 27 of which were for intoxication. 217 tramps were furnished lodgings during the month, the largest number on record. This indicates the growing popularity of the Tramps' Hotel.

Warren A. Worden, Esq., of this city is extradited to Guelph, Canada, by his appointment as Consular Agent at that place.

Ezekiel Gilbert, an old resident, died in the 73rd year of his age.

The fire companies hold their annual elections in the evening and elect officers for the ensuing year.

THURSDAY, Jan. 3rd.—A cloudless morning with keen, crisp air, wind south, and the mercury six degrees below zero, advancing to 20° above at 1 P. M. The day is cloudless throughout. The Signal Service Bureau reports that not a flake of snow nor a drop of rain fell in the United States on New Year's day. The first frost of the season at Augusta, Ga., and at Jacksonville, Fla., occurred on that day. Today heavy snows are reported in Virginia. An advance of 50 cents per ton in the price of coal is announced, making the cost of that commodity \$5.50 per ton for stove coal delivered.

FRIDAY, Jan. 4th.—The morning opens with a blustering snow-storm from the south. The wind subsides towards noon but the snow falls steadily during the day. At 1 o'clock the wind is northeast and thermometer 18°.

The peanut store, under the stairs at the head of North street remains closed during the day. As no notice that the proprietor has gone into liquidation, or has closed to take an account of stock, is affixed to the padlock, it is fair to presume that the temporary interruption in business is the result of the inclemency of the weather. The snow-plow is called into requisition in the afternoon to clear the tracks of the street railroads, and cutters and sleighs supplant wheeled vehicles for the first time this season.

Further investigation leaves the cause of the Barclay street disaster a mystery, none of the theories so far advanced being satisfactory.

A severe storm is reported on the Atlantic Coast, and several vessels are reported lost.

SATURDAY, Jan. 5th. — A bright clear morning with cold

northwest wind, which works to the west towards noon and subsides. Thermometer 17°.

The sleighing is excellent about the city, but the sudden and complete change in the weather will doubtless affect the sanitary condition, which has been unusually favorable thus far this winter.

The new moon, holding in its lap a large dim globe like a great yellow nightmare, sits upon a western cloud early in the evening but soon disappears.

The artist, G. L. Clough, has a sale of oil paintings in the evening.

SUNDAY, Jan. 6th.—The wind seems to be swinging around the circle in search of a storm today. Starting in the south in the morning, it wanders around to the west at noon, then around by the northeast to east, and closes the day in the southeast. The day is cloudy with sun-gleams in the afternoon, the thermometer 14° at 1 P. M. As the wind reached the northeast, the mercury went down to zero, but soon recovered, making a very variable temperature during the day.

MONDAY, Jan. 7th.—A fine, sifting snow from the east. The ice harvest commences today, the first load of the season being seen on the street. The wind is west at 1 P. M. with the thermometer at 14°, and a clear sky. Soon after, the wind commences its circuit around to the north and northeast, with slight snow.

The house of Thomas Murphy, on Lansing street, was burned early this morning.

A Circuit Court and Special Term of the Supreme Court commenced its session at the Court House, Judge Dwight presiding. The Common Council meets in the evening, the exciting topic before the Board being the claim of William Barry for two dollars, for killing a mad dog, which promises to assume as much importance as the Aurelius Avenue Bridge Question.

The week of prayer commences in the churches today.

TUESDAY, Jan. 8.—A bleak, piercing, south wind prevails throughout the day, with a dull sky. Thermometer 16°. A local paper reports the mercury at from 10 to 20° below zero, which is only from 30° to 50° out of the way, and may be a private dispatch from the North Pole, or may refer to the temperature in other localities yesterday, from which an unusually low temperature is reported.

Judge Day publishes his appointments of the terms of the County Court, for the coming two years.

The several Banks of the city go through the formality of electing Directors and Bank officers.

Of general events, much has transpired during the month in addition to what I have embodied in my daily record.

Congress has done little, on account of a long holiday recess. The State Legislature has been in session scarcely long enough to organize.

Some startling disclosures have been made in the financial world. Two prominent brokers in New York have fled their country, confessedly guilty of largely betraying their trusts, in fraudulently disposing of securities placed in their hands for loans, etc. Two Presidents of Insurance Companies have been sent to State Prison, one for willfully, and the other for carelessly, verifying false reports and statements of their companies.

In the old world, General Grant has been "sailing o'er liquid miles where Ischia smiles," interviewing the crater of Vesuvius, etc., and on Sunday last he and Stanley, the African explorer, were in conjunction at Alexandria, Egypt. Stanley has been made the recipient of the Grand Cross of the order of Medjidie, from the Khedive of Egypt, which will pacify us until we get an obelisk. He goes to France and England where civilized honors await him, while the freedom of the cities of Thebes and Memphis doubtless await General Grant, or he may be made

burgomaster of Gondokoro. The Khedive has not yet decided whether to present him the Sphynx, or the Pyramid of Cheops, to bring home with him.

The eastern war has progressed slowly since the fall of Plevna, on account of the severity of the weather. The five bridges built by the Russians across the Danube, have all been swept away by the ice. Turkey has sought terms of peace through England, which Russia declined to entertain, preferring to treat with Turkey face to face. The Russians have lately advanced and occupied Sophia, a city in the line of march toward Adrianople, and are reported to have sent cavalry through the Schipka Pass of the Balkans. The Servians have achieved some slight successes. Meantime the British Lion has been very much exercised, and has raged considerably at Russia for her reticence in withholding terms of peace. The other animals have, however, complacently licked their furs, and it is intimated that Germany and Austria know more of Russia's intentions than Russia is willing to impart to England. The latter would doubtless declare war, upon the slightest pretext.

And here, my dear doctor, I leave my fragment of the record of the old year in your hands.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,

*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, Jan. 9, 1878.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann :*

I have been revolving in my mind the matter of a record of current events, and I have reached the conclusion that the collation and preservation of facts is perhaps profitable; but that any immediate philosophical deductions therefrom are not warranted. It is said that the pomice of the apple should be left in the cheese a suitable time before the juice is expressed, if you would have the best cider. So historical facts will doubtless yield a better vintage, after lying in the mass to mellow and develop their flavor. This thought reconciles me somewhat to my task, for I am assured that by the time my record reaches your hand, the mixture will be in condition for the press.

I find that this preface to my monthly communications affords an excellent opportunity to patch up the little holes in my previous month's record, and to make my peace with any irregularities in the presentation of facts, which may have occurred. For instance, I am kindly reminded by a friend, that my incredulity as to the existence of Russian, or Turkish national airs, is ill founded,—that at least two Russian national airs have found their way to our shores, and have been incorporated in our church music. I more than half suspected that such might be the case when I penned the observation, and still I could scarcely conceive a strain of a sufficient number of beats to the measure, and of sufficiently pliable and elastic rhythm, to compass

the agglomeration of consonants that characterizes the Russian tongue. I recall the insinuation however with the most cheerful alacrity, for I remember that the Russian bear was a very well behaved animal during our nation's time of trial, and I would be far from giving utterance to anything that would disturb the peaceful relations between our government and our most sympathetic power in Europe.

The weather has been scarcely demonstrative enough to warrant me in characterizing the day. The vanes have pointed south, rather from yesterday's habit, than because there was any wind. The sky has been overcast and the mercury stood at 40° at 1 P. M.

The Historical Society last evening listened to a very interesting paper prepared and read by J. Lewis Grant, Esq., on the "Early Methods of Transportation in Cayuga County."

A Sunday School Teachers' institute, under the charge of Rev. Dr. John H. Vincent, commenced its session today at the Central Presbyterian church. Victor Emanuel, King of Italy, died today, and his son is proclaimed King Humbert I.

Dr. Vincent lectures in the evening in the Y. M. C. A. course, subject, "That Boy."

The Colored Military Company, Captain John Peterson commanding, give their first annual hop at the Academy of Music in the evening.

Congress resumed session after the holiday recess, but without a quorum in either House.

THURSDAY, Jan. 10th.—The weather, which went to bed last night clear and bright, gets up this morning with an easterly rain, which continues most of the day. Thermometer 42°.

The wind southeast at noon, changes to northwest in the evening, with copious rain.

Lester V. Keyes died today at the age of 72, after an illness of some two or three months' duration. He had been for many years a respected citizen, engaged in the hat trade.



Elizabeth Long, an elderly lady, walking upon the track of the N. Y. C. R., near the depot, was run over by an engine and instantly killed.

Charles C. Marsh, for many years a resident of this city but latterly of Pennsylvania, died at Mount Joy, Pa., at the age of 61.

FRIDAY, Jan. 11th.—The rain of last evening changed to snow, and this morning a damp northwest snow-storm prevails, changing to rain about noon. Thermometer 33°. It was throughout a slushy, disagreeable day.

Horace B. Gilbert, Deputy Postmaster, and for thirty years connected with the Post Office in this city, died suddenly this morning, at the age of 56.

SATURDAY, Jan. 12th.—A dull, dark morning with north wind. Thermometer 34°, dark and misty.

Gilmore's Band gives a concert at the Opera House in the evening.

SUNDAY, Jan. 13th.—A southeast wind, mild and cloudy. Thermometer 34°. A brisk rain sets in late in the evening and continues during the night.

MONDAY, Jan. 14th.—The wind still south, dark and cloudy. Thermometer 39°. The wind veers to the west in the afternoon, bringing rain, followed by snow in the evening.

TUESDAY, Jan. 15th.—The ground is nicely covered with snow this morning, but not sufficient to make sleighing. Thermometer 30°, wind northwest, and a busy snow-storm prevailing at 1 P. M.

Brotherton today secures a respite for one week. A serious railroad disaster, caused by the giving way of a bridge, occurred at Tariffville, near Hartford, Conn., by which thirteen lives were lost. The two sisters McCargar, residents of the town of Locke, who were engaged in teaching school in Connecticut, were among the victims of the disaster. Gold declined to 101 $\frac{1}{2}$

today, the lowest point touched since the advance during the war.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16th.—A cool, sunny day, with wind in the northwest. Thermometer 18°. Whitelaw Reid, of the *New York Tribune*, and Judge Russell, of St. Lawrence County, are elected regents of the university, by the state legislature, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of General Dix, and the death of Chancellor Pruyn. James T. Fields lectures in the Y. M. C. A. course on "Fiction—Ancient and Modern."

Samuel Bowles, widely known as the editor of the *Springfield Republican*, died today, after a protracted illness, aged 51 years.

THURSDAY, Jan. 17th.—A dark, threatening morning with wind northwest, but warmer, the lower current of air being from the south. Thermometer 24°. The two little girls, charged with stealing from several stores, plead guilty before the Court of Oyer and Terminer, now in session, and are sentenced to the Rochester Penitentiary. The party mentioned in my record of November 27th, pays a penalty of \$500 in United States Court at Albany, for his indiscretion in attempting to smuggle goods across the Canadian frontier.

FRIDAY, Jan. 18th.—Dark and cloudy, with the upper current of air from the northwest, and the lower current from the south. Thermometer 38°. In the afternoon it is clear, warm, and bright, with south wind. A farmer's wagon loaded with grain and dressed geese, is run over by the cars at the Washington street crossing of the N. Y. C. R. R. No damage except to the wagon and its contents.

SATURDAY, Jan. 19th.—A clear, warm day, with south wind. Thermometer 48°.

SUNDAY, Jan. 20th.—Cloudy, but mild, with south wind. Thermometer 44°. A brisk rain in the evening.

MONDAY, Jan. 21st.—Lowery and dark, with south wind. Thermometer 45°.

The trial of Edmund M. Hoppins, for killing Philip J. Proud-  
fit, commenced today and a jury was empaneled therefor.

The Egyptian Obelisk, which has been recuperating from its  
sea-sickness at Ferrol, Spain, arrived at Gravesend today.

The Russian Army enters Adrianople, which had been evacu-  
ated by the Turks pursuant to an agreement for an armistice.  
Professor Reynolds secures some notoriety at Union Springs,  
on account of an attempt to arrest him in the midst of a lecture,  
for not having taken out a license. It was the outgrowth of  
ill-feeling among the local authorities.

The Common Council meets in the evening and confirms a  
contract with the Water Works Company, for three years, at  
\$16,000 per year, and appoints a committee to revise the city  
charter.

TUESDAY, Jan. 22nd.—A lowery, dark day, with west wind.  
Thermometer 34°.

The counsel for Brotherton secures a stay of proceedings  
till April 2nd, to make application for a new trial. A slight  
snow falls in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 23rd.—A bleak, piercing, northwest wind,  
with light snow. Thermometer 4°,—the severest day of the  
season thus far.

King Alfonso of Spain, marries the Princess Mercedes today,  
with great pomp and ceremony.

Edward J. Collins, founder of the Collins' line of steamships,  
died today, aged seventy-nine years.

The agricultural works of A. W. Stevens & Son, the leading  
industry of Genoa village, are destroyed by fire in the evening.

THURSDAY, Jan. 24th.—A southwest wind and a bright day  
succeed the storm of yesterday. Thermometer 25°.

The trial of Hoppins at the Court House, excites a greater  
degree of popular interest than any trial since that of the negro  
Freeman, upwards of thirty years ago. The court room is

thronged, and the sympathy of the public seems to be intense in favor of the accused.

FRIDAY, Jan. 25th.—Another bright, but not cloudless day, with wind in the southeast. Thermometer 42°.

Dr. Hugh Proudfit, one of the principal witnesses against Hoppins, dies this morning after a brief illness. The trial of Hoppins is concluded, resulting in his acquittal. He marries his affianced, a Miss Turner, who has been by his side during the whole trial, at the house of a friend in the evening. In view of this case, how forcible and apt is the immortal statement that "truth is stranger than fiction." What an opportunity for a first-class tale, not simply "founded on fact," but a fact in itself, with all the accessories and concomitants of the modern novel! An incensed brother in a moment of phrensy, slays with a base-ball club, the betrayer of his sister; pines in a felon's cell six months and seven days, where he is devotedly ministered unto and cheered by his faithful, young, rich, beautiful, black-eyed, intelligent affianced; the terrible ordeal of a five days' trial; the sudden death of the principal witness against the accused, in the midst of the trial; the stalwart arm of the champion oarsman of America, sustaining the prisoner in court; the agony of suspense during the three hours and twenty minutes of the jury's deliberation; the triumphant acquittal by the twelve good men and true; the wild and irrepressible joy of the spectators; the immediate retirement to the hospitable home of a benevolent and sympathetic female physician; the solemnization of the marriage by the village pastor; the going west; the end! Rarely is such a plot at the disposal of an author.

The Caledonian Club celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Burns in the evening.

Col. J. Dean Hawley is elected Brigadier-General of the New Brigade, at the election held in Syracuse.

SATURDAY, Jan. 26th.—A dull, dark day with southwest wind. Thermometer 39°, with light rain. A meeting of citizens at the Court House, called by the mayor, to consider amendments to the city charter, appoints an elaborate committee of three from each ward, and adjourns.

SUNDAY, Jan. 27th.—Another dull, dark day with southwest wind. Thermometer 39°. A wet snow falls in the evening. The Wall Street Methodist Church, which has been undergoing extensive repairs, is re-dedicated today. The body of young Bryant, drowned in Cayuga Lake on the 3rd inst., is found today.

MONDAY, Jan. 28th.—Colder, with north wind and snow. Thermometer 15°. A Mr. A. R. Davis, of Syracuse, enlightened an audience at the Court House in the evening, on Government Reform and kindred topics.

TUESDAY, Jan. 29th.—A cloudless, beautiful day, with cold north air. Thermometer 22°. Miss Helen Potter completes the Y. M. C. A. course, with readings and personations at the Opera House in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 30th.—Another bright, cloudless day, with wind still north. The mercury, which stood at zero in the morning, advances to 22° at 1 P. M. The State Senate confirms the nomination of Benj. S. W. Clark, warden of the Sing Sing Prison, for Superintendent of Public Works, having previously rejected the nominations made by the governor, of Messrs. Fairchild and Magone, for that position.

An extra session of the Board of Supervisors is called for next Monday. The general committee, appointed to revise the city charter, meet at the Court House in the evening and appoint a large number of sub-committees.

THURSDAY, Jan. 31st.—The wind still holds in the north, with the lower current from the east, and indications of a storm. Thermometer 24°, cloudy. A brisk easterly snow-storm sets in

between 3 and 4 o'clock P. M. The steamship, *Metropolis*, from Philadelphia for Para, Brazil, was stranded in a sinking condition on the North Carolina coast, near the scene of the *Huron* disaster, and about 100 persons perished. She was laden with railroad iron, and had a large number of passengers, who were engineers and skilled workmen, going to Brazil to build a railroad. The vessel proves to have been unseaworthy.

The average of the mercury for the month has been 28.5°, the extremes being 48° on the 19th, and 4° on the 23rd. I have been quite interested in examining a record of the weather for the month of January, 1778, just one hundred years ago. The temperature seems to have been quite even, ranging from 34° to 47° with considerable snow and rain. The severest criticism is upon the 14th, which is characterized as "an exceeding wet, churlish day." This however, was in London. I suppose there wasn't any weather here, to speak of, at that time, or if so, that no record of it was kept.

Preliminaries of peace and an armistice were agreed upon and signed by the representatives of Russia and Turkey at Adrianople today.

FRIDAY, February 1st.—Happy is the man this morning whose sidewalk does not extend around the corner,—that is comparatively happy, for the proprietor of even a limited frontier has a dismal prospect of shoveling before him. Twenty-two inches of snow fell last night and a complete blockade exists this morning. The street cars are not running and the trains on the Central road are much delayed. The wind still holds north. Thermometer 30°, cloudy.

George Cruikshank, the celebrated English caricaturist, died today in the 86th year of his age.

SATURDAY, Feb. 2nd.—Candlemas day. Why the bear should emerge from his den today to seek for his shadow, rather than upon any other day, I have never heard explained. Still

such is the tradition handed down to us from the early settlers. It must be a near-sighted bear that can not see his shadow today, for it is cloudless and the snow is dazzlingly bright, so I suppose the bear mournfully returns to his couch for the six weeks' nap.

The wind is still rigidly north and the thermometer 24°.

The track is becoming beaten down so that the sleighing is passably good. The police report shows sixty-four arrests for January, thirty-four of which were for drunkenness.

Mrs. Eliza Underwood, relict of the late Amos Underwood of this city, died in Chicago today, at the age of seventy years. Alexander S. Johnson of Utica, judge of the United States Circuit Court, died at Nassau, N. P., at the age of sixty-one years.

SUNDAY, Feb. 3rd.—The morning opens cold, cloudless and bright, the trees delicately frosted and glistening in the sunlight. The mercury settled to 6° below zero, during the night. A peculiarity of the frosting of the trees is that it is deposited wholly on the south side of the twigs, the wind being north. At 1 P. M., the wind is south, with thermometer at 24°, and cloudless. The new moon, "tranced in unspeakable blue," escorts the evening star down the western sky, at early twilight.

MONDAY, Feb. 4th.—Another cloudless morning, with wind in the south. The mercury stands at zero in the morning, but advances to 34° at 1 P. M., with wind southwest.

The Board of Supervisors meet in extra session, and proceed to respond to the charge of the late grand jury, touching their extravagance in auditing a claim of some \$1,200 for painting and papering at the Court House. Probably the expense of the extra session will not exceed from \$300 to \$500, but it is extremely doubtful whether the county will be peculiarly benefited to that extent.

The bell-punch is introduced today on the street railroad line as an amusement to the passengers, and an incentive to the

honesty of the conductors. The Common Council meets in the evening, and ineffectually attempts to fix the responsibility for the failure to make a coal contract for the city for the current year.

TUESDAY, Feb. 5th.—One of the most unenviable positions in private life at this season of the year, is to stand upon the peak of the roof of the domestic domicile, leaning upon a snow shovel, and deliberating which side of the roof to shovel off first. It is not unlike being drafted. The volunteer who falls facing the foe, is buried with military honors, and his name goes down to posterity embalmed in patriotic associations. The drafted man however, who falls, is buried a few inches below the surface on the battle-field, and usually compasses a small share of glory. So, the man who is forced by dripping ceilings, to adopt desperate measures to repel the invasion of the melting snow. The prospect of being dragged heels-foremost out of a snowbank, half suffocated, with a broken limb or possibly a broken neck, has few of the elements of glory in it. I think the preferable course is to hire a substitute, and stand below, in the capacity of an officer, and give commands as to how it shall be done.

The sky is still cloudless and bright, with wind in southwest. Thermometer 36°. Albert H. Goss, for many years a resident of this city, prominent in business and widely esteemed, died in Brooklyn at the age of 55. Major John J. Letchworth, of this city, is announced as our sole representative upon the new brigade staff.

The board of education meets in regular session in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6th.—The wind varies from southwest to southeast, but the sky keeps clear. Thermometer 40°. A false alarm of fire calls out the several hose companies shortly before nine o'clock in the morning.

THURSDAY, Feb. 7th.—A day of rare beauty. The soft air from the south is as balmy as in spring-time, and the sky is



perfectly cloudless. The roar of the distant waterfall, however, portends an end to the clear weather, which has now been continuous for six days. Thermometer 50°. Pope Pius IX, died at Rome today, after a lingering illness, in the 86th year of his age. He has been pope thirty-two years. Matthew Keirsch, of Elmira, holds a Greenback mass meeting at the Court House in the evening.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8th.—The morning opens warm and cloudy, with wind in the southeast. At 1 P. M., the wind veers to the east and northeast, the mercury drops 3°, to 47°, and a steady rain sets in.

The supervisors complete their defence to the accusation of the grand jury and adjourn. The conclusion reached was that the grand jury based their finding upon insufficient evidence, which was a very considerate verdict for a body trying themselves. A resolution that the members of the board make no charge against the county for their services during the extra session, gave way to one that it was inexpedient for them to do so. Matthew Keirsch, Attorney-General Warren T. Worden, and Senator Barak B. Willey, enlighten the Throopsvillians on the greenback question in the evening. The greenback campaign seems to be fairly opened.

SATURDAY, Feb. 9th.—The rain continued far into the night, making serious inroads upon the body of snow, but not enough to destroy the sleighing. The morning opens dark with a misty snow sifting from the north. Thermometer 26°. A brisk snow-storm about 2 P. M. promises to preserve the excellent sleighing.

SUNDAY, Feb. 10th.—A dull, cloudy day, with north wind. Thermometer 37°.

A professedly reformed Catholic, under the name of A. P. Develin, lectures at the Court House on a variety of topics, with temperance for an announced subject.

The new Armory was bailed out today, 310 pailfuls of water being dipped out. I think it was a mistake to do it, for in view of the fact of the dismemberment of our Brigade staff, by which we are shorn of much of our military prestige, and of the superior facilities for water communication possessed by the Armory, a valid claim might have been made upon Congress for an appropriation to establish it as a naval station.

MONDAY, Feb. 11th.—Cooler and cloudy, with north wind. Thermometer 18°.

Hon. Gideon Welles, one of the famous war cabinet of President Lincoln, died today in the 76th year of his age.

Captain Geo. H. McKenzie, the champion chess player of America, commences a session with our city amateurs today, at the Osborne House.

A law and order meeting, having the object of taking steps to repress the unlicensed sale of spirituous liquors, is held at the Court House in the evening, whereat a committee is appointed to interview the mayor and other officials.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12th.—A brighter day, but cloudy, with southerly wind, and thermometer at 32°. The Boards of Registry hold their first meeting today, preparatory to the spring charter election.

An alarm of fire in the afternoon was occasioned by a slight fire in a house on Parker street.

In the outside world, events of much importance, other than those I have noted in my daily record, have transpired during the month. The Russo-Turkish war has progressed rapidly towards its end, so far as the power of resistance by the Turks is concerned, and negotiations for peace have been instituted. The Russians have achieved marked successes, notably the capture of an entire Turkish army of 25,000 men and 100 guns in the Balkan passes, and are pushing on towards the Turkish capital. The Servians have fought with varying success, as

allies of Russia, but with the general result in their favor. The Greeks, at a late day, awoke to the situation and their army crossed over into Thessaly, kicked at the tailfeathers of prostrate Turkey, and returned across the frontier as soon as Turkey fluttered, with a total loss of three wounded and one prisoner. It is scarcely probable that this campaign will inspire another *Iliad* from any mute, inglorious Homer of modern Greece. Meantime, Great Britain is not a little exercised at the successes of Russia, and is working up to a war fever, in view of real or fancied peril to her interests in the east. Stanley has arrived in London and is busily writing up his explorations for publication. He is rather coldly received in England, as compared with the enthusiasm of other nations over his discoveries. It is hinted that possibly he ought not to have been reared in America, or else not have presumed to explore as much of Africa as he has.

General Grant seems to have got beyond the range of the reporter and may possibly be making a tour of exploration of the interior of Africa.

Congress has been giving its entire energies to a consideration of the silver question, but thus far without definite result, while the state legislature has as yet accomplished little except in the way of getting ready to do a great deal, by and by.

New York city has been startled by the voluntary and unexpected re-appearance in court, of Harry Genet, one of the old Tweed Ring, who has been a fugitive from justice for some five years, and now returns to make application for a new trial of the charges against him.

In the scientific world, the important announcement is made, that a chemist of Paris, and another of Geneva, Switzerland, have succeeded in liquefying all the gases, a result which has been hitherto unsuccessfully sought for many years, by scientific men. It was accomplished by subjecting the gases to great pressure at a temperature of 300° centigrade, or 540° Fahrenheit,

below zero. The immediate practical application of the discovery, will doubtless be the avoidance of low stages of temperature by many of our public speakers and writers.

I have not thought it necessary to note the large number of defalcations and failures in business throughout the country during the month. Happily our immediate locality has thus far been spared these deplorable exhibitions of fiducial betrayal and wild business management. A characteristic exhibition of the folly of conflict between labor and capital has been manifest in the Crispin strike, at Lynn, Mass., resulting in the entire discomfiture of the Crispin Association, and the displacement of its members by laborers who were glad to secure their deserted benches.

And here, my dear doctor, is another resting place. Trusting that I am not becoming so uninteresting as to necessitate the use of a book mark to keep your place. I remain,

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N, Y., WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13th, 1878.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann:*

Last evening witnessed the first anniversary of the Cayuga County Historical Society, through whose instrumentality our acquaintance was inaugurated. I confess that I indulged in a quiet exultation at the results accomplished in an unostentatious way by the society during the first year of its existence, and I was led to the pleasing reflection, that while the busy toilers of today might look lightly upon our efforts, you, at least, as you delved among our records and pored over our manuscripts, would be grateful to us that we had rescued from the past and garnered from the passing, even the shreds of history which might otherwise have passed into oblivion.

The society was last evening regaled by an excellent address from the president, Rev. Dr. Hawley, and by a complete and interesting report from the custodian, Dennis R. Alward, Esq., both of which were ordered to be published.

An interesting feature of the treasurer's report showed no necessity for the passage of the silver bill. The day is cloudy with north wind and thermometer at 32°.

The British fleet passed through the Dardanelles today, *en route* for Constantinople, in face of the denial of permission thereto by Turkey. The sleighing is remarkably fine and everybody seems to be enjoying it, either as participants or observers. Notably, South street is the center of much interest, where trot-

ters are speeded to the intense delight of a throng of men and youth of leisure, who line the street as lookers-on and judges of the merits of the different animals.

THURSDAY, Feb. 14th.—A lovely day for Valentine's day, notwithstanding predictions of rain by "Old Probabilities." The sky is cloudless with wind in the east and thermometer at 36°.

It was the custom formerly for the newspapers, annually, to give an elaborate account of the origin of the custom of sending valentines. I see no such account this year, from which I infer that interest in the custom is waning. Occasionally, some timid swain sends a missive of bashful affection to the object of his adoration, but these cases are exceptional. The mass of valentines of late years are caricatures. A small trap-shoot took place at the fair grounds between Lewis of Syracuse and Conner of Auburn, Lewis winning.

The Homestead of Daniel Webster, at Marshfield, was burned today, and many valuable relics were destroyed. At a Greenback Congressional District Convention, held at Newark, Senator B. B. Willey is made delegate to the National Greenback Convention at Toledo, and Attorney General Warren T. Worden is made chairman of the congressional district committee. The positions are both honorary, no salary attaching to either.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15th.—Not so pleasant as yesterday. The east wind of the morning veers to the south at noon, with thermometer at 35° and light snow.

The committee on revision of the charter, meets in the evening and reports progress, asking leave to sit again, which was granted.

The fine sleighing and bright moonlight induce many sleigh-riding parties. Far into the night the laughter and song of these merry-makers, returning to their homes, provoke the envy of uninvited sleepers whose sleigh-rides are in dreams only.

I have often wished these moonlight excursionists one additional joy, a string of old fashioned sleighbells. The jingling of modern bells like a bunch of keys, is tame, compared with the melodious ringing of the bells of other days, such as inspired the tintinnabulations of Poe's muse—the bells in the middle of the string as large as pumpkin apples, and tapering either way, to the size of seedling potatoes—there was glee; that was a sturdy compliance with the law requiring bells to be worn, which is still on the statute book, but so old as to have become deerepiti.

Judge Samuel Blatchford, formerly a resident of this city, was today promoted by the President, from the position of district judge, to that of circuit judge of the U. S. court, in place of Judge Johnson, deceased.

Capt. McKenzie's chess tourney closed today, after a very pleasant tilt with our local amateurs, none of whom were able to cope successfully with the champion.

SATURDAY, Feb. 16th.—The day is bright, but shadowed by clouds, and warm from the south wind. The wind veers to the west at noon and the mercury marks 37°.

The U. S. Senate passes the Bland silver bill today, after a long contest, by a vote of 48 to 21. It was materially amended from the original house bill, and goes back to the house for concurrence.

SUNDAY, Feb. 17th.—The day opens mild, with south wind, and cloudy. About noon a brisk wet snow-storm sets in and the wind soon changes to northeast. Thermometer 36°. A successful exhibition of the Bell telephone is given at the Southern Central Telegraph office, communication being had with Elmira, over a circuit of 140 miles.

MONDAY, Feb. 18th.—The morning opens bright and cloudless, with north wind and thermometer well down towards zero, rising to 20° at 1 P. M. The Common Council meets in the

evening and defers action on the contract with the Gas Light Co., the proposition being to contract for three and one-half years, at \$25 per street lamp, and \$2.50 per thousand for city buildings.

The committee to accept the donation of Lyman Soule, Esq., of land for a cemetery, reported that Mr. Soule had deeded the land to trustees, and that no further action was demanded of the city. The Reform Club give a pecuniarily successful sociable at their rooms, over the post-office, in the evening.

TUESDAY, Feb. 19th.—A clear, cold day, with north wind, the mercury advancing from zero in the morning, to 27° at 1 P. M.

The annual town meetings are held today, throughout the county, for the election of supervisors and town officers. Of the supervisors elected, seventeen are Republican, five Democrat, and one Greenback.

Master Willie Hills, a lad of 14, tested the thickness of his skull today, by the accidental discharge of a Remington revolver, without fatal result. The experiment, though perhaps satisfactory to the operator under the circumstances, will doubtless be repeated at intervals, with varying success, by other curious and careless boys, so long as they have access to firearms.

A drawing room entertainment, in aid of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, was given at the residence of Mrs. Chas. P. Williams, in the evening, which proved a gratifying social and pecuniary success. The state association of school commissioners and city superintendents convened at Utica today.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20th.—Warmer, with brisk south wind, and cloudy. Thermometer 34°. A slight rain in the afternoon and evening.

At Rome today, Cardinal Pecci, is elected Pope, on the 3rd ballot, and assumes the title of Leo XIII. He is the 285th pontiff of the Roman church.

The committee on revision of the charter meet at the Court House, but make little progress.



A curious feature of the late town election in Sterling was the fact that the issue seems to have been a re-trial of the late celebrated Hoppins case. Hoppins appears to have been convicted in this last trial by a considerable majority, but it is not probable that he will be hanged under the verdict. This issue will doubtless enter into the politics of the town, for many years to come.

THURSDAY, Feb. 21st.—A clouded day, with slight rain from the south. Thermometer 44°. The silver bill, as passed by the senate, is passed by the house today, by a vote of 176 to 52 and goes to the president for approval. Governor Robinson prefers charges to the state senate against Mr. Smyth, superintendent of the insurance department, for exacting exorbitant fees contrary to law. The representatives of the different fire companies meet and choose J. H. Morris for chief engineer of the fire department.

The Storke cadets give their first annual infantry ball, at the Academy of Music, in the evening. The success of the affair was only equalled by the anticipation of its projectors.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22nd.—The anniversary of Washington's birthday creates little enthusiasm in the weather or in community. The day is dull and rainy, with southeast wind, and thermometer at 42°. The sleighing is becoming much impaired by the warm weather and rain. The banks and public offices are closed and flags are displayed by those who have them. Announcement is made that Frank P. Casey of this city, assistant surgeon in the Russian Army, stationed at Bucharest, has been honored with the badge of the "Star of Roumania," for faithful discharge of his duties.

I notice in the local papers of today, the announcement of the solemnization, by his honor, Police Justice Teller, of the nuptials of Mrs. Louisa A. King and Andrew H. King, of this city. Some months ago, the connubial felicity of this couple,

which for many years had made their household enjoyable, was interrupted, to the extent that the fair Louisa sought the intervention of the courts to secure a separation, which was effected. Standing, as it were, upon one foot in sober contemplation and solitude, she, at length, relented of her purpose and yearned for the companionship of her former partner, who was wandering disconsolately in the adjoining pasture, and resolved to give herself anew to his fostering care and protection. May their new honeymoon grow into the full of unclouded connubial joy.

SATURDAY, Feb. 23rd. The wind gradually works around to the north, with drizzling rain and fog in the afternoon. Thermometer 40°. Damages from the late rains are reported at Port Hope, Canada, in California, and other localities. The sleighs give place to wheels today, the sleighing being exhausted.

Miss Nella F. Brown gave readings at the Opera House, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A.

SUNDAY, Feb. 24th.—The wind changed to the west yesterday afternoon, where it has held steadily today. The sky has been thickly clouded, with thermometer at 32°.

MONDAY, Feb. 25th.—A dusky day, with northwest wind. Thermometer 31°. A light snow during the afternoon, and quite brisk squalls at intervals in the evening.

An altercation between two brothers of the Lillis family, residing on Mechanic street, disturbed the usual quiet of the Lillis mansion in the evening. A shot gun and two barrels of a revolver were discharged by one of the brothers at the other, but as both weapons were charged with too fine shot, and the aim was not in accordance with national guard practice, the target brother escaped with unimportant injuries.

TUESDAY, Feb. 26th.—The wind holds steadily west, with bright, clear sky, and thermometer at 31°.

The canal appraisers meet at the Court House, to hear the claims of damnified proprietors of lands along the Owasco Lake,

suffering from the rise of water therein, occasioned by using the lake as a feeder for the canal. The session was adjourned to May 28th, without taking any testimony.

The Workingmen and Greenbackers hold their caucuses in the several wards, in the evening, nominating local tickets, and selecting delegates to their city convention.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27th.—Wind still west, and the sky cloudless. Thermometer 42°.

The committee on the revision of city charter meet at the Court House in the evening, but as usual of late, fail of a quorum. The second in the series of collisions on the Central Railroad, occurred near Weedsport today. No lives were lost, but much damage to cars resulted.

THURSDAY, Feb. 28th.—These bright days are pleasantly wearing away our winter. The mild southwest wind and cloudless sky of the forenoon, with a temperature of 46°, is like the winter's benediction. The afternoon clouds however, the wind veers to the northwest, and possibly March may come in like a lion. The president today vetoes the silver bill, when both houses immediately pass the bill by more than the requisite two-thirds vote, the house by 196 to 73 and the senate by 46 to 19. This is said to be the first instance in which a bill has been passed over the president's veto on the same day the veto was received.

The Workingmen's and Greenback city convention meet and nominate Mr. A. T. Walley for mayor. There is something in the make-up of the convention, that would indicate that one of the chief political parties already in existence had contributed largely to the membership of the new organization.

The X. M. T. Hose Company give their annual hop at the Armory in the evening, transmitting their music by the telephone to Syracuse. The affair is reported as a success at each end of the line. The average temperature for the month has

been 34.4° with 50° on the 7th, and 18° on the 11th for the extremes.

FRIDAY, March 1st.—The threatening aspect of the weather last evening came to naught and the morning opens cloudless and beautiful. There is a little too much lion's blood and a little too much lamb's wool in the make-up of the day to concede it to either the lion or the lamb. The wind is north, the sky cloudless, and the thermometer 30°, being 8° above the morning marking.

A dispatch received today announces the death of F. G. Day, Esq. yesterday at Vienna, the result doubtless of an unsuccessful operation to remove a cancer, with which he had long been afflicted. Mr. Day had been a resident of Auburn about forty years, holding the position, of Special County Judge, and Justice of the Peace, and was probably about 63 years of age.

The Republican and Democratic ward caucuses are held in the evening to nominate ward candidates, and to choose delegates to their respective city conventions. The Democratic caucuses almost uniformly endorse the ward nominations of the Workmen's and Greenback caucuses.

SATURDAY, March 2nd.—The morning opens cool and bright, with thin clouds and a brisk south wind. The wind freshens and the clouds thicken as the day advances, the thermometer standing at 42° at 1 P. M. There is a flavor in the day which recalls old memories of the sap-bush, when the gusts of wind forced ones eyes full of tingling smoke and whirled clouds of ashes into the boiling sap—when the sap-gatherers looked warily for falling dead branches, as the wind moaned through the leafless trees. Still it can hardly be that the maple sugar season is upon us yet, but it is time to be looking over the sap-buckets and the spiles and the cauldron kettles—and hens should begin to practice laying eggs, for no sap-bush is complete without its store of eggs, and no eggs compare with those boiled in sap.

The Republican city convention nominates Orlando Lewis, Esq., for mayor, and the Democratic city convention endorses the nomination of Mr. Walley. A ratification meeting of the Workingmen and Greenbackers is held at the Opera House in the evening, addressed mainly by Attorney-General Worden, and a Mr. Junio, of Syracuse.

Ex-Senator Benjamin F. Wade, died at Jefferson, Ohio, aged nearly 78 years.

The Turks today sign the preliminaries of peace, offered by Russia, and the approval of the other European powers is now only needed to secure peace.

SUNDAY, March 3rd.—A warm, rainy day, more like April than March. The scattered snow banks look tired and home-sick, and the grass shows green on sunlit lawns. The wind is south, with thermometer at 52°.

The chief of police reports 64 arrests for February, 33 of which were for intoxication. For the year ending with February, 804 arrests are reported, 425 being for intoxication. Total number of lodgers at the City Hall hotel, 1,314, which would indicate something over 500 tramps.

MONDAY, March 4th.—The bleak winds of March blow from the north, this morning, and a light coating of snow, which fell during the night, is being reinforced by scattering flakes. Thermometer 25°. A session of the county court, Judge S. Edwin Day presiding, commenced today. The Common Council meets in the evening, and receives several reports which are duly referred, and adjourns to Friday evening.

TUESDAY, March 5th.—A bright day, mostly cloudless, with wind in the southwest, and thermometer at 42°. The charter election passes off quietly, resulting in the election of Mr. A. T. Walley, the Greenback-Workingmen's-Democratic, candidate for mayor, by 214 majority. Four Republican and three opposition supervisors were elected, giving the Republicans 21 of the 30 members of the Board.

The most thoroughly happy man over the result of election, whom I have met, is my friend, Attorney-General Worden. He is not jubilant, but solidly and quietly happy. His hands are thrust deep into his pockets as if to hold himself together from the pressure of inward joy, and his mouth wears a one-sided smile, half concealing, half disclosing the expectation of a compliment to his efficiency in securing so glorious a result. The Board of Education holds a regular monthly session in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, March 6th.—The morning is dim with clouds, thinning as the day advances, and a lazy sunshine characterizes the afternoon, with indications of rain. Wind, due south. Thermometer 57°

The first blue-bird of the season,

“ shifts his light load of song  
From post to post along the cheerless fence,”

today. I fear he may have come too early, but he knows best. How refreshing his smooth, clear notes after the long endured, senseless clatter and chat and chatter of the bickering sparrows, which have wintered with us. I hear of robins today, but have seen none.

The mayor elect is serenaded in the evening, the honor of making the introductory and congratulatory speech being assigned to Attorney-General Worden, to which the mayor elect felicitously responded.

The sale of the old Armory, which was to have been made today is indefinitely postponed on account of an informality in the advertisement. Thurlow B. Wasson of this city, committed suicide at Oswego, by taking morphine. His age was 30 years.

THURSDAY, March 7th.—There is no gain-saying the presence of the robin, the bluebird and the song-sparrow this morning. The day is one of sunshine, shadow and showers, the wind being southwest the fore part of the day, with thermometer at 57°. The wind changed by way of the west to the north in the afternoon. The first thunder shower of the season occurred

about 2 P. M., a very modest shower, which limited itself to a single rumble of distant thunder.

I notice spinach and "pie-plant" in market today, said to be the product of Skaneateles market gardens.

FRIDAY, March 8th.—A sharp white frost during the night, dispels the clouds, and the day is as clear and genial, as a day in June. The wind is west, and the thermometer for the third successive day stands at 57°.

The honey bees sport in the sun today, after their winter's imprisonment in their cells. The Common Council holds an adjourned session in the evening, but transacts little business that is made public.

SATURDAY, March 9th.—A cloudless day, with warm south-east wind, and thermometer at 65°. There is a marked activity among the birds today, as if important business were pending. The robins look askance at old nests and peer into the crotches of limbs, the blue-birds flit about dead limbs, if perchance an opening therein may be found for a nest, the sparrows chatter and squeal and quarrel and hasten to appropriate all the desirable sites for nest-building, and everything indicates an early spring.

The first telephone is put in practical operation in our city today. It connects the Southern Central depot with the residence of Supt. James G. Knapp, and with the residences of other officials of the road.

SUNDAY, March 10th.—People look suspiciously upon and speak doubtingly of this weather, as if it were out of season. It is not uncommon to hear the remark, "We'll have to pay for it, by and by." While, in the main, I think Horace Greeley's admonition to keep out of debt is sound, I feel that it is a good investment to take this weather on trust, with the chance of the pay for it being demanded in April. The season has been remarkably perplexing to weather prophets. I am told that there is not the least frost in the ground, and those who pride themselves upon early vegetables, have their gardens

well under way. The Owasco lake has not been entirely frozen over during the winter. Ice has been scarce and large quantities have been brought by rail, from little Sodus Bay. The day is clear, with slight haze. Thermometer 70°. Wind south in the forenoon, veering to northeast in the afternoon, with clouds and indications of rain.

MONDAY, March 11th.—The wind is apparently reluctantly northeast during the forenoon, veering to the east, with a slight rain about noon. Thermometer 57°. The outgoing Common Council held their last meeting in the forenoon, and bade adieu to their calling. The finance committee, with a parting salute, report, "the city entirely free from debt." This would be cheering, were it not for some "outstandings" in the details of the report, which cast a shadow upon the picture. Some of our older inhabitants will also recall certain railroad bonds, but these, I believe, are secured by stock. There is also the claim of William Barry for killing a mad dog, which is still unliquidated so far as I have observed the proceedings of the board. Still, it will sound well to our neighbors to hear that we are out of debt. The new mayor took his seat at 12 M., when the new board organized and adjourned till evening. The evening session was mainly devoted to fitting up the running gear of the city machinery. Mr. Lewis Paddock was elected street superintendent; Mr. James Lyon, city attorney; Lonny Hurd, janitor; and some other minor positions were filled, and the standing committees of the board announced.

In view of the imperceptible progress made by the citizen's committee, on the revision of the charter, the board appointed a committee of its own, for that purpose.

TUESDAY, March 12th.—The morning opens with a south-east wind, and just rain enough to make one indifferent as to the use of an umbrella. Thermometer 50°. I notice reports of the prevalence of the severest snow-storm, known for years, in the extreme west, commencing on Thursday last, and continuing three days. The Pacific Railroad is completely block-



aded at Cheyenne, and several lives are reported lost. Lake Ontario is reported to be open for navigation, which is a month or more earlier than last year.

A local paper notes the croaking of frogs as having already been heard, and the blossoming of maples, as indicating spring. I notice the maple trees in bloom, but I distrust the frog part of the report, for two reasons: first, the conditions are not right for the coming of the frog; and second, the early frogs do not *croak*, they *peep*. Possibly, the reporter might have heard a frog's trill, which had been preserved by a phonograph, or it may have come from a canned frog.

Outside events have not been of a startling nature, during the month. Congress, having disposed of the silver bill, has been considering the tariff question, and other matters of local and minor importance. The State Legislature has been considering the excise question, and the re-apportionment bill. The war in the east, has not materially changed its outward aspect, except that the belligerent spirit of England has somewhat subsided, and Austria seems now disposed to be fractious. The indications, however, favor a settlement of difficulties without further resort to arms. Business continues dull, and the prospects are not especially cheering. Gold has declined to 101 during the month.

General Grant has once more got within range of the reporter, having arrived at Constantinople on the day the peace articles were signed. After a short stay he was transported to Greece on three Ironclads, where he was cordially received by the king, who gave a ball in his honor. He is expected to return to this country, and take up his residence in Philadelphia, in the fall.

Another disastrous tidal wave is reported on the western coast of South America. And here, my dear doctor, is another breathing place in the tiresome journey which we are making together, marking the end of the eleventh month of our companionship.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,

*Historiographer.*

## RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

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AUBURN, N. Y., March 13, 1878.

*My Dear Doctor Schliemann :*

A record of current events, increases in value, in the direct ratio of its antiquity. It would be difficult to estimate the worth of such a record for the period, for instance, when the Pyramids were building. Imagine a few entries: "March 18,—  
"Anno Mundi 46, King Cheops I beheads the supervising  
"architect of the Sphinx, because the left ear is longer than a  
"rigid taste warrants. March 21.—The new architect com-  
"mences chiseling the northeast corner of the Sphinx's mouth.  
"March 24.—King Cheops I demonetizes the coin of the realm,  
"and the laborers on the great Pyramid strike for an increase  
"of wages." Such items would have an interest for the most indifferent. So, in estimating the wealth of posterity, it is no more than just to take into account the probable value of this record six thousand years hence.

As I enter upon the month which closes the year of our intercourse, I am surprised that I have continued the record so long. It seems but yesterday that it was begun, but many yesterdays have intervened and each has borne its fruitage of events, more or less important, some of which I have imperfectly noted for your reading. I have lately been looking over a lot of old diaries, which have been my companions in years gone by, and was surprised at the meagreness of items I find in them. For the first few days of each year, perhaps an entry appears

each day ; then blanks, with an occasional entry of a " payment to Bridget for services to date," or the memorandum of a loan of a few dollars, more or less, to this or that friend, and so the record dwindles away to nothingness. I doubt not that the record of most men, so far as embodied by themselves, most fully appears in their cash books. I presume there are few people who have not attempted a diary, but I question if any one has continued it faithfully any considerable time, and remained sane. Perhaps Pepys was an exception. Here, then, is an opportunity for a championship, "The champion diarist!" I am not ambitious, however, to compete for the belt.

A steady rain from the south ushers in the day. The state election in New Hampshire yesterday, resulted in the election of a Republican governor and legislature, by diminished majorities from last year.

The Historical Society was, last evening, favored with a very full and complete paper on art and artists in Cayuga County, prepared and read by Col. T. J. Kennedy.

The day has been dark and rainy, the wind veering from south to west, and the thermometer at 43°. The mayor announces his new police force, displacing all the old members. Mr. Charles. E. Cootes is made chief of the new force.

THURSDAY, March 14th.—A dark, dull day, with occasional rain and sleet. Wind north, and thermometer at 40°.

The new police force, in their fresh uniforms and burnished shields, attract no little attention on the streets today. Irreverent boys call awelessly at them across the street, and familiar friends greet and survey them from head to foot with feigned delight. I think no man feels quite at ease when he first appears on the street in a suit of new clothes, and usually seeks companionship with some one going his way, to obscure his individuality. So I notice that the new guardians of the peace, seem more at ease when chatting with a friend, than when pacing their beat in soli-

tary stateliness. This feeling will wear away however, as the honor gradually adapts itself to their angularities.

A concert was given at the Opera House in the evening, exhibiting the telephone and phonograph, which was a success, except as to the number of the audience. The simplicity of the phonograph and the marvellous effects produced by it, excited much wonder and admiration.

FRIDAY, March 15th.—The weather has recovered from its ill humor and the day is bright, with northwest wind, and thermometer at 44°. The old feud between the blue-birds and sparrows, for the possession of the hollow limb of the apple tree, is renewed today.

The county court adjourns, after a two weeks' session.

SATURDAY, March 16th.—Warmer, with south wind, and a cloudless sky. Thermometer 55°. General Tom Thumb, and party, delighted the juvenile portion of our community by an afternoon and evening exhibition of their diminitiveness, at the Academy of Music. The re-appearance of the General in public, at this juncture, would indicate a shrinkage in his financial bureau.

SUNDAY, March 17th.—A southeast wind, cloudy, and slight rain, with thermometer at 40°, the wind veering by way of the east to the north, at evening. I fancy that we do not get so cold an air from the north, when the wind goes around the back way, that is by way of the east from the south, as when it goes by way of the west.

Today is St. Patrick's day. The saint died (or was born, I forget which), 1383 years ago today. The usual solemnities of the occasion are not observed today in our city, on account of its being Sunday.

MONDAY, March 18th.—The morning opens cloudy, with wind in the north, but clears towards noon, and a cloudless afternoon succeeds. Thermometer 43°. The spring luxury of maple

sugar can now be indulged in to the extent of a pound for fourteen cents. I first notice the yellow crocus in bloom today.

The new Common Council meets in the evening and audits bills, adopts resolutions and modifies the membership of hose companies, with the facility of veterans. The citizens' committee on the revision of the charter is voted a clerk, in the discretion of the city attorney. The city attorney is also deputed to go to Albany and deliver to our representatives certain amendments to the charter, which seem to have been sanctioned by the council. This would indicate that the amendments are too weighty and important to be trusted to the mail. It is a wise precaution against the possibility of our representatives' consigning the amendments to the waste basket, as trade circulars, or patent medicine advertisements.

TUESDAY, March 19th.—A dull, dark day, with occasional rain from the northwest. Thermometer 38°. The 49th regiment establish a rifle range in the new Armory, for practice at a distance of 110 ft. The bulls eye is graduated to the distance, and a modified or diluted ammunition (probably the air gun) is to be used.

The first hand-organ of the season, thrills the air with melody on the streets today.

The Historical Society holds an adjourned annual meeting in the evening, and elects officers for the ensuing year. The old officers were unanimously re-elected, as a reward for their efficiency during the past year.

WEDNESDAY, March 20th.—A clear, cool morning, with brisk northwest wind. Thermometer 39°, an advance of 9° since morning. The corps of mound-builders, who annually in the springtime gather the winter's collection of debris in our streets into comely heaps, commence their labors today. It is wonderful, what an interest these sober-visaged men evince in horses. Ceasing from their labor, they will lean upon their hoes, and

watch the animals pass and repass with untiring interest, and the slower the horse moves the more absorbed is their contemplation. I attribute it to the sympathy of labor. When a squad of these mound-builders has tired of watching horses in one place, it changes its base, making a unique procession. Then the pipes are lighted, a glance is given towards the sun, to judge the time, the hoes are thrown over the shoulders, and the line moves in double file, the distant rear being brought up by the man with a turned foot or a crooked knee, in consideration of whom no undue haste is permitted. Besides, these men are veterans, and know that rapid marching is exhausting, and the mud will stay till they get there, and the time goes on the same, whether marching, hoeing, or admiring horses.

How shrilly and defiantly the robins pipe their cold weather notes against the north wind! One need not go out of doors to *feel* that it is cold, he can *hear* the cold in the changed and hurried utterances of the shivering birds.

THURSDAY, March 21st.—A sharp freeze, last night, is succeeded by a bright morning, which is somewhat obscured by stray clouds during the morning, scattering towards evening. Thermometer 34°. The northwest wind seems a little ashamed of its wandering, and is yielding slightly to the allurements of a warmer quarter. From fifteen to twenty tramps have nightly sought lodgings at the tramps' quarters, in the City Hall, for the past few nights, indicating a revival of business in this element of community. It would be interesting to study the habits of this species of humanity, to determine whether, as would seem to be the case, like migratory birds, they have their seasons of coming and going, and whence and whither and wherefor, whether like swallows they disappear, no one knows whither, for a season, or whether like the bear and the woodchuck, they hibernate upon the fatness accumulated during the milder portion of the year.

FRIDAY, March 22nd.—The wind crept back to the west under the cover of the night, and the morning opens cloudy and slightly warmer. Thermometer 40°. Clear in the afternoon. A citizen's meeting, to consider the revision of the city charter, is held in the evening. It was feared that the sub-committee of five, appointed by the committee of twenty-two, was not progressing rapidly enough, and it was proposed to appoint a new committee of three. Some of our most experienced speakers took part in the discussion, but the appointment of the committee of five was finally approved.

SATURDAY, March 23rd.—The sky is overcast and a brisk, southwest wind prevails, with a moist feeling in the air as of approaching rain. Thermometer 58°. Rain in the evening.

The great international walking match for the championship of the world, closed at London, today. The test was to walk the greatest number of miles in six consecutive days, the prize being £500, and the champion's belt. O'Leary, the American representative, secured the prize, walking 520 miles in the allotted time, and ending up with one sound leg. His nearest competitor was Vaughn, the Englishman, who accomplished 500 miles. The interest in the contest overshadowed the eastern war question in London, for a time,—as high as 10,000 spectators at times witnessing the contest. The name of the American champion sounds as of imported stock, and I shall not be surprised to hear him claimed as a native of Cork, or Kilkenny, or Tipperary. This kind of contest is an improvement upon the prize-fight of a few years ago, still I think the honor about equal to that of a champion gum-chewer. In fact, I haven't much faith in champions as benefactors. I know of no other that we could send to the Old World at present, unless it be the champion sausage-maker of Pennsylvania, who has made the largest sausage ever manufactured; or the champion orator of San Francisco, who lately spoke twenty-four consecutive hours on a

wager, drinking meantime four gallons of whiskey and then collapsing, whether from exhaustion or whiskey, did not appear.

The steamboat *Magenta* burst her boiler, near Sing Sing, this morning, killing five persons and scalding many others.

SUNDAY, March 21st.—The ground is white with snow this morning, and a fitful northwest wind prevails, and at intervals during the day sudden snow-squalls remind us that it is still March. It is a day of triumph for those who have been predicting that "we should catch it." Thermometer 34°. The storm is wide-spread; the cable reporting a severe snow-storm in England, and the loss of the naval training-ship *Eurydice* near the Isle of Wight, with upwards of three hundred cadets.

MONDAY, March 25th.—The salutation, "What do you think of this weather?" is frequent and appropriate this morning. The mercury marked 10° at 7 A. M., (this statement is made upon information and belief) but had risen to 23° at 1 P. M. The wind is a little north of west, and brisk, as becomes a self-respecting March wind, with occasional snow-squalls. If the snow would stay where it fell, I think it would show a depth of about two inches, but it blows away to leave bare spots for birds to get their dinners.

The paper read before the Historical Society, at its last meeting, calls forth several letters, published today, adding to the list of Cayuga County artists. Only one disclaims the honor of being so classified. Having exhausted the sublimities of art, tired of the associaton with presidents and the magnates of our land, satiated with sporting on the prairies with princes, and of scaling mountain peaks with live dukes, having spiked the continent of North America to the Rocky Mountains, and utterly disgusted with the trickery of politics, he retires to wear his laurels in the quiet and agreeable management of an Insurance Company. Cayuga County may be humiliated for aspiring to an honor she might not rightfully claim, but she cannot be



deprived of the solace of admiration, nor debarred from the hope that the company may be spared an investigation.

A disastrous fire in Philadelphia destroys some \$800,000 worth of property; and one in New York some \$600,000 worth.

TUESDAY, March 26th.—Once more March smiles under a westerly wind, and a clear sky. The thermometer registered 40° at 1 P. M., with scattered clouds, which rally as the day advances.

The Common Council holds a special session in the evening, and orders the publication of the proposed amendments to the city charter.

As I suspected, the papers announce that O'Leary, the champion walker, is a native of Cork, but is a naturalized resident of Chicago. The O'Leary's of Chicago would seem to have sprung from noble ancestry. It was the cow of an O'Leary which kicked over the lamp that started the great Chicago fire.

WEDNESDAY, March 27th.—The sky is overcast, the sun shedding a dull red light through the clouds, at times with an effect not unlike Indian summer. The wind is south, and the thermometer at 56°. Rain in the afternoon, and very dark.

A Mrs. Seeley of Owasco died this morning, from the effects of burns, from the explosion of a kerosene lamp last evening. The state senate acquit Mr. Smyth, superintendent of the insurance department, of the charges against him, by a vote of 19 to 12.

THURSDAY, March 28th.—The morning opens with a dense fog which continues throughout the day. The wind is north-west and the mercury stands at 40°.

FRIDAY, March 29th.—The fog lifted during the night, and the day is cloudless, with a brisk, cool, north wind, and the thermometer at 42°. A sharp frost at night demonstrates the impropriety of planting cucumbers too early in the season.

SATURDAY, March 30th.—The morning opens clear and bright, with wind in the east. Thermometer 53°. Thin clouds obscure the sun in the afternoon. Mr. Z. L. Webb for many years resident of this city, died today, in the 73rd year of his age.

I should feel that my record was far from perfect, if I failed to note an important industry which has been established in our city during the past eighteen months. The way-farer by day or night, or the wakeful slumberer in the vicinity of the post-office, may hear at any hour of the night, or in the lull of the street rumble by day, at uncertain intervals, a clanging noise, which has piqued the curiosity of many a passer-by as to its origin. At length people learned that it came from the *Button Factory*. Some eighteen months ago, Mr. John H. Woodruff commenced the manufacture of buttons by a process peculiarly his own, in the building formerly occupied as a Paper Bag Manufactory in the rear of the postoffice, and has continued it to the present time with marked success.

Through the courtesy of a gentleman interested in the business, and also in the Historical Society, I have been permitted the rare privilege of visiting the institution and of giving a brief notice of it, that you may know how our people are supplied with buttons at the present day. Of course I should not feel at liberty to give the details of mixing the ingredients, for you must know that the material of which the buttons are made is a composition—the exact proportions of gypsum and naphtha and wauhoo it takes to make a batch of French buttons—for this would enable anyone to engage in the manufacture. I understand that Mr. Woodruff is taking a great many thousand tons of gypsum from the Springport beds annually, but I presume it is not all manufactured into buttons. Suffice it to say that the composition is prepared in sheets, of the thickness required for the button. The moulds are sunk into steel plates of suitable styles, the number of buttons to each plate varying with the size of the button. The composition, heated sufficiently

to render it pliable, is placed in the mould, which is then subjected to strong pressure, and to a cooling process at the same time, and in about two minutes a cake of bright buttons is produced, with eyes all pierced; it may be black, blue, green, gray, striped or speckled, according as the style demands and as to the nature of the material used. I understand that the dun-colored button is more expensive than the more pronounced hues. I may say here, that in loosening the buttons from the moulds, the mould is dropped upon an iron plate and causes the clanging noise which I have mentioned. From the moulder the buttons go to the picker or sorter, who breaks off the excrescences, thence to the finisher who files the edge of each button smooth, as it revolves rapidly upon a spindle, thence to the card room, where the nimble fingers of some fifty or sixty women stitch the buttons to cards, which are then packed in boxes for shipment. I may add here that door knobs and furniture knobs are also quite extensively manufactured by a similar process, but do not have to be carded. The entire product of the manufactory is shipped to a distant market.

Buttons, being an article of dress, must of course have the prestige of foreign birth. An American made button might be tolerated by the barefoot schoolboy, to tether his nether garment to his single suspender, but to the average citizen the button of European origin is preferable. Its use elevates one into the atmosphere of his travelled friends, who are wearing the same styles of buttons purchased in Paris or Berlin. It would be a pardonable artifice, therefore, if Mr. Woodruff should label his manufactures, "Boutons Francaise, Rue de Terrill," or something of that sort, especially as few of us feel able to purchase imported buttons for every day use.

The establishment keeps some 130 employes busy, nearly all doing "piece work," the lighter work being done by women, and distributes to them monthly, from \$2,500 to \$3,000. In the moulding department a double set of hands is employed,

one for day, and the other for night work, the moulds being kept busy from 12 o'clock Monday morning to 12 o'clock Saturday night. From 900 to 1,000 gross of buttons are turned out daily. This seems an enormous production, and Mr. Woodruff is entitled to great credit for ministering so largely to the necessities of our people for so indispensable an article. But a slight computation will reveal the fact that were it not for other agencies, there would be an absolute button famine in our country. Nine hundred gross per day is about 40,000,000 buttons per year, or less than a single button for each man, woman and child in our land! However startling the situation may at first glance appear, there are compensating views of it. Many people go abroad to purchase their buttons; then in the warm season people do not need so many buttons, and manufacturers can bank up against their orders. Moreover, there is in almost every household, which has not been lately burned out, a button reserve, of from a quart to a half bushel of odd buttons, carefully preserved in collar boxes and old stockings, which can be resorted to in case of emergency.

Government however should limit, with strict penalties, the number of styles of buttons manufactured. It is rare that you will find two buttons which are mates in the reserve which I have mentioned. The prudent house-wife empties a quart of them into her lap, and fumbles them over and dives down into them and sifts them between her fingers, to find the mate to the lost one from your garment. If found, generally the eye is gone, and another quart has to undergo the same process, and usually a button of about the same diameter and of a generally similar personal appearance, is substituted with the remark, "that people will not stop you on the street to see if your buttons are mates." All this inconvenience might be obviated by judicious legislation.

If it were permitted me, I should be pleased to present some moral reflections upon the utter inefficiency and uselessness of a

button without an eye. Almost everything else which has an eye, is of some use, even though the eye be destroyed. The eye of the wind is not essential to it; the eye of the potato may be removed, to the absolute improvement of the esculent; the eye of a needle may be gone, and still the needle may do good substitute service in an emergency, in place of a pin, or be useful to pick slivers out of the children's fingers, but a button without an eye—what shall be said of it? You can't play checkers with it, for you can never get a dozen of a kind; the only use I can conceive for it, is a kind of half pay duty on the retired list, as the fox in a game of fox and geese. I see that I am wandering, however. I aimed to give a brief account of an industry, which is adding much to the prosperity of our city, and having partially effected my purpose, I leave the rest to your imagination or research.

SUNDAY, March 31st.—The wind is south and the sun partially obscured by clouds. Thermometer 55°. The house of Lawrence McCarthy, on Park street, takes fire from a defective chimney early in the morning and is burned. The children and the cook-stove were rescued from the flames, as was also the cow which gave the alarm, but the house was wholly consumed. The water in the outlet is drawn down today for the convenience of laying the foundation to the new building on the west side of State street bridge. The day, from the condition of the atmosphere, has been peculiarly fruitful of headache, not the conventional kind with which one stays at home, but the legitimate ache which one takes to church with him. The average of the thermometer, for the month, has been 45.3°, the highest being 70° on the 10th, and the lowest 23° on the 25th.

MONDAY, April 1st.—Wind west, and slightly cloudy. Thermometer 52° at 1 P. M., with wind veering to the north.

About 1,400 workmen in the shops of the New York Central Railroad are discharged today, in pursuance of arrangements to reduce the number of employes on the road.

The streets are crowded with rural visitors, brought hither to arrange their first of April balances. The harpist is on the street today, with clarionet and violin accompaniment, the first of the season. The Common Council meets in the evening and discharges the usual routine of business, commences borrowing money to pay the police, and refers the contract with the Gas Light Company, to the committee on lamps, for completion. The notorious Madame Restell, of New York, nearly severed her head from her shoulders with a carving knife at her home, this morning. It killed her.

TUESDAY, April 2nd.—A bright clear day, with northwesterly wind, and thermometer at 56°.

The Board of Education hold their regular monthly session in the evening, and order the roof of the Bradford street primary school building to be raised, so as to make the building two stories high.

The Board of Excise meet in the evening, and reduce the price of licenses; a hotel license being reduced from \$125 to \$75. This is a concession to the general tendency to a decline in values. Now let us have the Moffat Bell Punch to register the drinks for economical, financial and scientific purposes. It would be more interesting in a historical record, than a daily note of the weather, to record the number of drinks. Today for instance, our drinking public being in a social mood, the register shows 5,000 drinks; tomorrow a reaction, and the number is largely diminished. On the fourth of July the patriotism of our community could be nicely gauged, if the register were of sufficient capacity. It would add greatly to our stock of sanitary statistics, if the drinks recommended by physicians could be separately registered. But one difficulty occurs to me, and that is, in registering the drinks from beer kegs and bottles in private cellars; but this could be obviated by attaching a punch to each man's mouth, which I should favor, as it would indicate the exact state of sobriety of every citizen at any hour of the day.

Jabez Gould died today, aged 68 years. Mr. Gould was the pioneer in introducing drays for carting in Auburn, and also public hacks, although the first public conveyance for hire, was a one-horse cab introduced by David Foot. Sylvester Town of Cato was accidentally drowned in Cross Lake today. He was married the evening previous.

WEDNESDAY, April 3rd.—The wind holds steadily in the quadrant from west to north, with a clear sky and cool, dry air. Thermometer 58°. I first notice the purple finch today, with his war paint of raspberry stain, but I hear of his coming some days since. I notice that the robins seem to delight most in singing in the evening after the sparrows have gone to bed, and in the morning before they get up, which shows the good taste of the robins. The first strawberries of the season are reported in market today. I do not notice the robins about my own vines yet.

THURSDAY, April 4th.—The morning opens cloudless, with northeast wind. Thin clouds at noon, with thermometer at 60°. The first shad of the season is reported today, probably intercepted by the Connecticut fisherman, on his way up to Holyoke dam.

The papers report two hundred applicants already accepted for Stewart's Women's Hotel, in New York, which was opened to the public Tuesday evening, and visited by from 30,000 to 40,000 people. In the description of the kitchen I notice the mention of a griddle, which bakes sixteen square feet of buckwheat cakes at once, from which I infer that this delicacy is to be served by land or square measure, the guest ordering a quarter or half an acre of pancakes, according to her appetite.

FRIDAY, April 5th.—The wind has returned to the northwest, is somewhat brisk and cool, with an overcast sky, clearing towards noon, with thermometer at 51°. The streets are as dusty as in midsummer.

A serious railroad accident occurs at Slatington, near Mauch Chunk on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, caused by an oil train colliding with a freight train, setting fire to the oil train which was burned, and a dozen or more persons perished in the flames.

One of the Steuben county poor-house buildings was burned at night, and thirteen of the inmates were burned to death.

SATURDAY, April 6th.—The west wind of the morning gradually veers to the north, the sky is thickly clouded over, thermometer 50°. A light rain sets in, in the late afternoon, which continues during the night.

The city treasurer is reported to have received \$1,500, all in money, the proceeds of a loan by the city to pay the police. It is a rare extravagance that the police should be paid so much, so soon after the city is reported out of debt.

SUNDAY, April 7th.—These cool, north winds are repressing the ardor of the youthful spring, and vegetation comes on slowly. The day is cloudy and cool, with thermometer at 41°.

A singular accident occurred to a funeral procession in the Fort Hill cemetery today, caused by one of the carriages being upset and severely bruising its inmates.

MONDAY, April 8th.—The early morning was clear, this I stand ready to verify. Fleeting clouds soon arose, but the warmth of the sun dispelled them, and the day has been bright, with northwest wind, and thermometer at 54°.

An equity term of the Supreme Court commenced its session at the Court House, Justice Dwight presiding.

I notice the account of the launching of the new steamship "City of Pera," of the New York and Brazil line, at Chester, Pa., on Saturday last. Fourteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine people and the President witnessed the launching.

TUESDAY, April 9th.—The wind went around by the east to the south during the night, and this morning a brisk southeast



wind prevails, slamming doors and window-blinds, and rattling windows and evincing a general disposition to be frisky. The sky is cloudy, and rain seems imminent. Thermometer 58°. A light rain set in about four o'clock.

The Cayuga Presbytery commenced its session today, at the Calvary Church, in this city.

The annual processions of spring calves have commenced, and today occasional delegates might be seen on the streets, headed for the depot for credentials and a pass to New York. I notice the presence of the currant fly for the first today, and first hear the peeping of frogs in the evening.

Charles Pardee, a prominent banker, committed suicide at his home in Skaneateles today by cutting his throat. He was upwards of eighty years of age, and was well known and highly esteemed in this community.

Of the general events of the month, perhaps the most important has been the diplomacy concerning the eastern war. The peace articles between Russia and Turkey have been made public, and are eminently unsatisfactory to England, nor are they to the liking of Austria and Roumania. Germany keeps aloof from the controversy, and France remains passive under the wounds from her late war, and is influenced by a desire to make the Paris Exposition of the coming summer a success, such as could not be expected with a general European war.

Lord Derby, the English minister of war, has resigned on account of his disagreement with the crown as to its policy in the Russian complication. He is succeeded by the Marquis of Salisbury. Russia has failed to pacify Austria and is thought to be seeking an alliance with Turkey. The peace congress seems to have been abandoned, and both England and Russia are preparing for war which seems to threaten, but may be averted. Fighting between the Turks and the insurgents in Thessaly has continued with varying fortune.

A startling event in Ireland, the shooting of a landed propri-

etor and his two companions by unknown assassins, recalls the old troubles which have afflicted the Emerald Isle.

General Grant has gone to Rome and has been presented to the new Pope. He is to spend some weeks there with his daughter Mrs. Sartoris. I suppose he will run down to Naples occasionally, and sit upon the dock and placidly smoke, while Vesuvius gets up a special eruption in his honor.

Little has been heard from the young king of Spain, from which it may be inferred that he has settled down to housekeeping with his new wife.

The Parisians are actively preparing for the approaching exposition. Congress has discussed without result, the Halifax award, by which England gets \$5,000,000 for about \$4,000,000 worth of fish which our fishermen have taken from Canadian waters. The house has made little progress in legislation, but has dismissed its doorkeeper for malfeasance in office, and elected a new one in the person of an Ex-Confederate Brigadier-General, over General Shields of Mexican fame.

The state legislature has done considerable discussion, but it is not its practice to legislate much till near the close of the session. The new silver dollar has been put in circulation, and gold last Saturday touched as low as  $\frac{1}{3}$  of one per cent. premium.

The state of Iowa, some two weeks since, re-instated the death penalty for capital crimes, having tried a lighter penalty for many years. Only four atrocious murders have as yet been committed in the state since the death penalty was revived.

Several of the colleges of the country, notably Princeton and Dartmouth, have been much disturbed by the practice of "hazing" among the students, which in one instance was attended with disastrous results. The month has been remarkable for the number of failures of business houses throughout the country.

In the scientific world, elaborate preparations are being made for observations of the transit of mercury on the 6th of May, and the total eclipse of the sun on the 29th of July. A party

of German scientists have already arrived in this country for that purpose.

In our own community quiet has prevailed, and a kind of subdued prosperity has kept the people hopeful of the good time coming. I notice the important business change of the dissolution of the partnership between Mr. Sutton the druggist, and Doctor Perry Williams, which had continued for the past thirteen years. This is not the result of any misunderstanding but simply a business convenience.

I hear good reports of the crop prospects. I should have been gratified to embody here some predictions of Mr. Perrigo, as to the probable destruction of the wheat crop by the Hessian fly, but time and space will not permit.

And here, my dear doctor, ends my record for the month and for the year, the parting of the ways. If at times I have been prosy and uninteresting, I trust that Mrs. Schliemann has come to the rescue and eased the burden. Almost daily an aged friend intercepts me on the street, and seizing my reluctant hand, inquires as to my health and the health of my family, and then as to the sanitary condition of each individual member thereof, and still clinging to me like a marmot, or as with the tentacles of a cuttlefish, regales me with reminiscences of yesterday's weather, observations as to today's weather, slender prophecies as to the probable weather for tomorrow, and other commonplaces about kindred topics, which have long ceased to interest me, until I tear myself from him and go my way. I bear the infliction patiently, for I know that the day is not distant, when the footsteps of the old patriarch will no longer vary their course to intercept my passing.

Profiting by my own experience, my dear doctor, I cease the threadbare story of the birds, the winds, the clouds, the temperature, and release your hand with a final good-bye.

Very truly yours,

B. B. SNOW,

*Historiographer.*

## POSTSCRIPT.

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AUBURN, N. Y., February 11, 1879.

So many events have occurred, my dear doctor, since the close of my record on the 9th of April last, that, while disclaiming any intention of recanting my expressed determination never again to take history at long range, I so far waive my scruples, in my desire to keep you advised of the events of the age, that I avail myself of the prerogative, unquestioned in the correspondence of the fair sex, of adding a postscript to my letter.

Looking back over the months, I can, at this distance, of course, scarce be expected to do more than point out the glittering peaks of events, which are still gilded by the rays of the declining sun of the year, and perhaps trace some of the shadows which are more sharply lined in the landscape.

History is spasmodic in its nature, or perhaps I might say, epidemic, prevailing with greater severity, under different types, at different times; (whence the erroneous impression that history repeats itself) or better still that it is volcanic, having seasons of comparative rest and periods of active eruption. So far as our own community is concerned, I may characterize the past few months as a recuperative period, not remarkable for startling or important events, but still not devoid of agencies that may have an important bearing upon the future.

By way of putting myself at ease, I will begin with the weather, which was my never-failing resource during the period of my regular correspondence. As I remember it, the weather

has been somewhat fickle, delighting in sudden contrasts and startling effects, and the season has been wanting in those long reaches of pleasant and enjoyable weather which characterized the previous year. The spring developed somewhat reluctantly, evolving her treasures after the following order: Frogs and the currant fly appeared for the first on the 9th of April; on the 15th, the canal opened; on the 19th, chimney swallows appeared, and on the 20th, barn swallows, with the first spring thunder shower. On the 24th, wrens and martins, and on the 3d of May tardily came the oriole, for whom the cherry blossoms had been waiting some days. I need not say that the English sparrow had been here all this time. I notice a disposition with them latterly, to gather in large flocks. If this indicated a purpose on their part to emigrate, rather than an increase in number, I should cordially encourage it. On the 8th of May, the first cucumber of local production greeted the epicure. On the 9th, horse-chestnuts were in bloom, and on the 10th, the May snow-storm came. On the 11th, was the first of six consecutive nights of frost, disastrous to even hardy vegetation, as the budding leaves of the button ball were nipped and failed of renewal until late in the season. The summer brought, June 27th, the first lightning bugs; July 7th, locusts, and 25th, crickets. The first autumn frost came September 22d, and the first snow-storm October 18th. Sandwiched in between these dates were cold and hot waves in close proximity, the highest temperature which I noted being 96°, July 17th. On the 2d of July, I noticed an apple tree in bloom, doubtless one which had just recovered from its disgust at the May frosts. On the 9th of August, a terrific tornado swept over the village of Wallingford, Ct., demolishing a considerable portion of the village and destroying many lives. On the 13th of September, a cyclone swept over Richmond, Va., and vicinity, which was very destructive in its course. On the 23rd of October, a violent gale swept along the coast, particularly severe in Philadel-

phia, where several church steeples were blown down. On the same day, a frost came to the relief of the yellow-fever stricken cities of the south. On the 11th of December unusually profuse rains fell throughout the country, causing severe freshets by which much damage was done in many localities.

I am not inclined to attribute these vagaries in the weather to the weather indicator which was erected on Mayor Walley's store on the 11th of October, for the reason that I have not studied its workings sufficiently to determine its effect upon the weather, or the effect of the weather upon it. When the affable projector of this internal improvement, accorded me the privilege of contributing to the expense of its erection, I ventured to suggest that if the indicator would point south instead of northeast when the vane indicated a south wind, it would be more intelligible to the untutored native, and dispel the impression that the house was divided against itself. I am not quite clear that he assured me that this discrepancy was due to the variation of the compass, but I know that he impressed me that it was a matter of minor importance. I have since noticed, that, by watching the vane and the indicator and holding up a moistened finger, I can determine pretty accurately the direction of the wind.

During the harvest season the weather was what farmers would call "*ketchy*," but had its lucid intervals during which the watchful husbandman secured his crops without material damage. The season has been unusually productive, the potato crop being the light crop, while the yield of fruits, especially apples, was unusually large. On Thursday, the 2nd day of January, a snow-storm accompanied with fierce wind commenced and continued with unabated vigor for three days, resulting in the most complete blockade of the railroads in the northern and western part of the state, known in the history of railroads. The weather has continued snug and unfriendly, until as I write today a copious rain is falling, turbid pools of water col-

lect in the streets from the streams running in sewers worn by the sleighs, the snow-drifts slowly settle beneath the persuasion of the raindrops, and the January thaw has a February birthday. I do not think the genial visitor will remain long with us.

In athletic sports our community has not been without interest. A base-ball club was organized early in the season, and having played games enough to demonstrate its facility for being vanquished, it vanished into thin air on the 8th of May. It was subsequently reduced to material form in Albany, where it completed the season without distinguished success. In aquatic sports the interest was more enduring. Having in our near neighborhood a quasi champion who was regarded as adequate to atomize the pretensions of any competitor who might try his blade, we felt secure that unlimited glory was in store for us. So we watched the course of aquatic events with unusual interest. Some of the more prominent were the following: On the 15th of May, Hanlon and Plaisted rowed a two-mile single scull race at Toronto, in which Hanlon was successful; May 29th, a three days' regatta at Watkins commenced. June 19th, the champion tested the powers of Dempsey at Geneva, and effected a draw by his shell tipping over. June 20th, Hanlon wins a five-mile race against Morris, at Pittsburg. July 4th, the champion wins his 80th race in a five-mile contest, with Dempsey, at Skaneateles. July 5th, the Columbias and Showacamettes row in the great international race at Henley, England, the Columbias winning the visitor's cup and some renown; the Showacamettes winning some notoriety, but falling just short of the crown of glory. July 17th, the Cornell Freshmen won an eight-oared race against the Harvard Freshman, at Ensenore. July 31st, Hanlon wins a five-mile championship race against Ross, at Riverside, New Brunswick. August 15th, the champion excited the suspicion of some of his more moderate friends, by his questionable illness in a race at Silver

Lake, Mass. August 24th, Riley wins against Kennedy, in a two-mile race, at Ensenore. On the 3rd of October, the long-looked-for contest took place at Toronto, between the champion and Hanlon, in a five-mile race, which was won by the latter. Thus vanished our visions of the champion oarsman. Charges were freely preferred and strenuously denied that the race was sold. Be that as it may, the result of the season's experience has been to place boating on a plane with horse-racing in public estimation. The season fitly closed with a champion scull race on the big dam on the 12th of October.

The history of pedestrianism for the season has been remarkable. It may properly be classed under the head of epidemic history. Since the great national victory of the Irish-American O'Leary in London, of which I wrote, innumerable aspirants for pedestrian fame and emoluments have developed all over the country—prominent among them, the Irish-American Hughes, the French-American Campana, the English-American Madam Anderson, the Dutch-American VonBlumen, and last, but not least, the uncompromized American Tubbs. The six days' walk between O'Leary and Campana in New York, in the latter part of December, netted some \$12,000 to the Champion O'Leary, and the feat of Madam Anderson in Brooklyn, yielded her some \$8,000. She accomplished 2,700 quarter miles in 2,700 consecutive quarter hours. Had there been another quarter mile to accomplish, the money would doubtless have gone to her heirs.

The evening of the 14th of January, 1879, was memorable in the annals of Auburn. The city abounded in attractions. Buffalo Bill was charming the boys at the Academy of Music. The Young Ladies' Art Loan Exhibition was in progress in the rooms over the Cayuga County Bank. The Historical Society was in session. Buffalo Bill was in the act of securing the wig scalps of some half dozen or more manufactured Indians, which he had dispatched at a single discharge of his trusty rifle, loaded



with blank cartridge; a bashful young man, at the supper table of the Loan Exhibition, was blushinglly striving to adjust some two inches and a half of corned beef, which dangled from his mouth from the inmost recess of a domestic sandwich, when suddenly, at 8 o'clock, 10 minutes and 13 seconds, the air resounded with the report of a cannon.

The president of the Historical Society, who was in the midst of a vivid description of the massacre at Wyoming, in a sketch of the life, trials and privations of Captain Russel Franklin, the first pioneer of Cayuga County, paused, involuntarily smiled a recognition of the announcement, and proceeded gravely with the presentation of the narrative.

This strange and unusual interruption of the evening's quiet, was the signal for the commencement of the pedestrian contest at the Opera House, between Mademoiselle Elsie VonBlumen, a fair, professional pedestrienne from Rochester, and Reginald Heber Tubbs, an amateur walker of this city, who were to accomplish, the former 100 miles and the latter 125 miles, in 27 consecutive hours. The contest had been duly heralded through the daily press. Mademoiselle's walking shoes had been prominently exhibited in the show window of one of our central stores. It was to be for the championship, territory unlimited, under the auspices of the Mayor and Common Council; the proceeds, after paying expenses, to be devoted to eleemosynary purposes. Mayor Walley presided, introduced the contestants, who shook hands in token of amity, and the trial was commenced, continued and completed to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned, except possibly the eleemosynary institutions, which were to be the recipients of the proceeds; the entire receipts, being a little over \$334, of which, after paying expenses, \$2 remained for distribution among charitable institutions. The fair "and plucky pedestrienne," nominally completed her 100 miles in the specified time, but Mr. Tubbs miscalculated his stride, and fell short of the prescribed task

20 miles. It has since been asserted, that a measurement of the track shows the 26 laps to be some 10 rods short of a mile, and it has leaked out that the scorer, in the early morning, when the spectators had gone home or to sleep, by mistake or from drowsiness scored 52 for the 42nd mile, so that, allowing for shrinkages and miscounts, the actual distance walked was about 60 miles. The contest was supplemented on Saturday evening, the 18th, by a benefit to the participants, in which Mr. Tubbs proved his superiority, but was charged with ungallantly running a portion of the distance, which he indignantly denies and asserts that he came down "flat-footed" at every step. As might have been expected, a bit of romance was engendered by the contest. The inamorata of Mr. Tubbs protested against his walking with the fair pedestrienne—protested to the extent of temporarily cancelling her vow. Explanations followed, and the renown which Mr. Tubbs achieved mollified the anger of his intended, and the ante-bellum relations were happily restored.

Young America has been greatly excited by this contest, and the domestic domain has been carefully measured, to ascertain the number of "laps" for a boy's mile, in many a household. Contests are of frequent occurrence, and the successful competitors are the recipients of tin whistles, mouth organs, sticks of gum, etc., to their intense delight and unquestionable profit.

On the 1st of May last, an enthusiast in Toronto commenced the task of walking 40 miles each day, until he shall have accomplished a distance equal to the circumference of the globe, which, discarding the theory of bulges in the Earth's contour, is about 24,877 miles. (These figures are not given as the result of my own calculations, nor as anything new or startling, but simply as showing the present status of geographical knowledge.) If he shall complete the task before the task completes him, it will require the greater part of two years, and he is to receive \$10,000 therefor. If he shall be carefully

coached by his attendants, I can conceive him wabbling in on the home stretch, a mere thistle-down of his former self, or what is more probable, his limbs having gradually worn away, his arms having dropped off from continual swinging, he will come rolling into the goal on the 24,877th mile, a huge blister, which his surviving friends can exhibit about the country as the man who walked around the world, and was transformed into a sphere in punishment therefor, by some envious deity.

Of local events of special interest, I have noted but few :

**JUNE 16th.**—Thomas Wilkinson, of the town of Locke, shot his wife and then himself. This seems to be the favorite diversion of unhappy husbands in the south part of the county. It has the merit of being comparatively inexpensive to the public.

**JULY 19th.**—Henry C. Hutchinson, a well known resident of Cayuga village, was shot by his tenant, J. R. Robinson, in self-defense, as Mr. Robinson successfully plead before a jury. Mr. Hutchinson was 45 years of age.

**AUGUST 15th.**—William B. Sheldon, while painting the extension of the Osborne House, fell from the roof to the sidewalk below, receiving injuries from which he died, after lingering a few days.

**OCTOBER 12th.**—Policeman Joseph Kober, was killed by being thrown from a wagon behind a runaway team, on his return from a political gathering at Port Byron.

**NOVEMBER 13th.**—Henry R. Burt, a fireman on the Southern Central Railroad, aged 35, was killed by being run over by his engine.

No conflagrations of any importance have occurred, the most destructive being that of the store room at the Prison, on the 13th of November.

In business enterprises, I note the advent of the firm of Messrs. A. W. Stevens and Co., formerly of Genoa, manufac-

turers of threshing machines. The firm commenced operations in the buildings lately occupied by the Dodge and Stevenson Manufacturing Co., the 1st of October, adding an important industry to the city.

On the 1st of October, the long looked for opening of the Seymour Library took place, and it now ranks as one of the established institutions of the city.

Events in the astronomical world partake so much of a local nature, that I may properly transcribe my notes here. On the 6th of May, the transit Mercury occurred promptly, according to appointment, and without accident so far as heard from. It was an event of rare occurrence, and of marked interest to astronomers, as it was expected to afford data from which the distance of the sun from the earth could be more accurately determined. In these days of pedestrianism, it may become an important question whether the extreme distance is ninety-three or ninety-five millions of miles.

On the 29th of July a total eclipse of the sun occurred, according to announcement. People in this locality were compelled to rely upon hearsay evidence as to the appearance of the phenomenon, as the sky was obscured by clouds at the hour of its occurrence. It was successfully observed, however, by a host of astronomers who have since been busily engaged in studying out, and writing up the result of their observations. It was hoped that the problem of an intramercorial planet would be solved at this eclipse, and one or two astronomers claim to have caught a glimpse of the missing link. Others, however, who were less fortunate, intimate that those who saw Vulcan were looking through the wrong kind of a glass. On the 23rd of January, the unusual conjunction of Jupiter, Venus, and the moon, occurred shortly after sunset, and as usual in this latitude, when such exhibitions are announced, the sky was obscured by clouds. It is a satisfaction to know, however, that the exhibition was curious rather than instructive. The planet

Saturn and several first-class stars, from a respectful distance, looked down upon the tea-party, which continued into the "wee sma" hours of the morning, when it broke up without any indications of inebriety on the part of the participants.

Prof. Swift, of Rochester, has been baiting his astronomical hook for comets, while Prof. Peters, of Clinton, has been roaming around between Mars and Jupiter, in pursuit of new asteroids, of which he has already discovered thirty-two. Prof. Peters is entitled to great credit for enlarging the territory of the United States to so great an extent, by the discovery of asteroids, although thus far they are of as little value to us, as Grinnell's land and our other discoveries in the region of the North Pole. Should the announcement be made, however, of the discovery of gold upon one of these asteroids, I presume some adventurous Yankee would at once project an excursion thither.

The march of improvement in our city, although not as boisterous as a boy's sleighride, has been steady. The accommodations of the Osborne House have been largely increased by the extension of the south wing of the building. The manufacturing establishment of Messrs. E. D. Clapp & Co., has been materially enlarged. A fine brick block of residences has been erected on the Underwood estate, on Court street. The German Protestant church on Seminary avenue has been inclosed. The Second Presbyterian church has been renovated and materially improved in external appearance, and late in the season the Woodruff brothers erected a commodious building on Logan street, for their button factory. I confess to a marked degree of interest in this institution, not that I anticipate any pecuniary benefit from it, but on account of its moral and intellectual influence. For instance, a liberal supply of shirt buttons in the household, would repress the tendency to profanity among bachelors, while the computation of the number of rows of buttons, and the number of buttons in a row that should be placed upon a morning dress, is an excellent mental discipline.

The button factory is my neighbor now. I listen with subdued pleasure to the shrill soprano of its steam whistle, shading off into a stentorian bass; to the clang of the button moulds, in the stillness of the night; to the labored breathing of the engine, like the heaving to and fro of a cross-cut saw, for I know that each inspiration is the signal of the birth of at least a dozen buttons for the relief of suffering humanity. I visited the institution a few days since, and was astonished to witness the enlargement of the scope and variety of its products since my previous visit. I picked up a comely horn button and was told that it was made wholly from blood. I shuddered at the sanguinary nature of the employment, and turned to the room where a score of lathes were busily cutting, turning, piercing, finishing, and polishing pearl buttons from sea-shells, and horn buttons from the hoofs and horns of over-sea herbivora. The piles of curious seashells from Australia and the South Sea Islands, of horns and hoofs from the strange animals of southern Africa, took me to far off lands, of which I had read, but whose products I had rarely seen.

I find that my proximity to the factory, calls for the exercise of my calmest philosophy. When the Monday's linen comes in from the line, cinder-flecked and spotted, like the salt-and-pepper trousers that filled the measure of my boyhood's pride for dress, it disturbs the tranquil flow of the domestic routine. I reason, that private convenience must yield to the public weal; that this slight annoyance is a kind of vicarious contribution that we make, that universal humanity may be snugly buttoned up from the inclemency of our Northern winters. I am answered, "wait till your June roses come to you, dew-laden and mottled with carbon, and your pansies poke up their saucy faces, smutted like that of a baby, who has been playing with the coal hod, and you will sing a different tune." Possibly.

During the months of August and September, the Water

Works Company replaced the old cement main, from the Pump House through Mechanic, Grover and South streets to Genesee street, with a twelve-inch iron main. The work was done under the superintendence of the late lamented J. Lewis Grant, and is a buried monument of his last important labor. Later in the season, smaller iron mains were extended through Genesee street from William street west, and through Clark street, under the superintendence of Mr. Eldred, Mr. Grant's successor. I do not think the large main is quite at ease, for it seems restless, as if trying to turn over in its bed at night. I am in some doubt as to the nature of the commotion, which is communicated to my cellar by the service pipe. Often in the middle of the night, a moderate double rap comes, which, whether I heed it by waking, or not, is succeeded by a loud rat-tat-tat, continued indefinitely, with indescribable variations, as if the whole Fox family were in the cellar, until I get up and set the water to running. When I first heard the rapping, I involuntarily exclaimed, "Am I a medium?" and set about arranging a scale of prices for seances. Further investigation, and the incoherent answers which I received to my questions, led me to suspect that the rapping might arise from the transmission of cipher dispatches. This latter theory rather predominates with me at present, for although not sufficiently versed in telegraphy to read by sound readily, I fancied that I detected a message to "Saddle Blackstone," last night. Of course I shall spare no effort to secure the key to this strange correspondence, but trust that no political scandal will be unearthed.

The city authorities have been active in repairing the streets; notably, in putting west Genesee street in excellent condition, just in time to have it torn up by the trenches for the Water Works and Steam Heating Companies. A large sewer was laid through Franklin street, from the North street bridge to the Franklin street school building, late in the season, and another through Orchard street.

The Steam Heating Co., was organized in June, and their boiler house was erected in rear of the Cayuga County Bank in September. The pipes were laid through Genesee street, west of North, late in the season. The importance of this innovation warrants more than a passing notice. It is claimed that sufficient heat can be furnished by means of under-ground pipes, connecting with stores, dwellings, etc., to warm the buildings and supply all needed heat for culinary purposes. The project is yet in its incipiency and will doubtless be materially modified and improved. Aside from the cleanliness and comfort of this method of heating, it is claimed to absolutely preclude any risk from fire.

It needs no prophet to foretell that the domestic economy of the coming generation will materially differ from that of their ancestors. Stoves, grates, and fireplaces will be a thing of the past; chimney swallows will emigrate, for houses will be built without chimneys, like muley cows without horns. And how much of the poetry of life will be gone! No cheerful blaze, nor glowing coals, nor sparkling embers of the wood or coal fire to sit by and muse over in the twilight and evening! Imagine the Longfellow of 1900, instead of watching the

"Shadows from the fitful firelight

Dance upon the parlor wall,"

seating himself beneath his electric light and writing an ode to his steam radiator! Imagine the agony of the items man, when kerosene shall no longer be needed to start the morning fire; when "Hose 6" can no longer be complimented for getting the first stream on the fire, for no fires occur! Let us be grateful that our lines were cast in the era of wood and coal, of gas and kerosene, rather than in the reign of steam and electricity.

I must not fail to note the advent of the almond-eyed celestial among us. In the dismal days of October he came, and perched over the Owasco outlet, on the North street bridge, displaying the conventional sign, "*Son Lee, Chinese Laundry.*"



Patient, quiet, reticent, he waited for custom; but whether from lack of it, or other cause, his stay was brief. As noiselessly as he came, one night he

"Folded his tent like the Arabs,  
And as silently stole away."

Either from haste, from lack of discernment, or from obliquity of moral sentiment, he folded the garments of his patrons inside the tent, and transported them as personal baggage. His career with us would warrant the Common Council in enacting an ordinance restricting Chinese immigration.

The list of those in our community, who have been summoned from their earthly labors, within the past ten months, seems unusually large. I mention those that I recall, who were more widely known:

Of the mothers who have gone out from the household, there are Mrs. Harriet Button, wife of Dr. J. D. Button, who died April 14, at the age of 74. Mrs. Hannah M., wife of Edward C. Hall, who died June 21, at the age of 43; June 16, Mrs. Amelia, relict of Nathan Burr, in the 58th year of her age. Mrs. Abigail Congdon, July 13, age 84. Mrs. Eliza, relict of Col. John Richardson, July 21, at the age of 90. Mrs. David Arne, Oct. 28, at the age of 85. Mrs. Richard S. Holmes, Dec. 9, at the age of 34, and Mrs. Martha Hosmer, Dec. 21, at the age of 65.

Of those who have been prominent in business community, or well known from long residence, the number who have died is almost startling.

APRIL 15.—Col. Winslow M. Thomas, for some time principal keeper in the Auburn Prison, died at the age of 46.

MAY 18.—Joseph Barnes, one of the oldest residents of the city, at the age of 85.

JUNE 15.—Col. Oliver C. Hubbard, at West Troy, at the age of 74. He will be remembered as the former proprietor of the Hubbard place, at the foot of the lake.

JULY 11.—Theron Green, age 74, for many years a keeper in the prison, and long a resident of the city.

The same day, Charles Bemis, at the age of 74, a man distinguished for his sterling integrity and simplicity of character.

SEPTEMBER 16.—Benjamin Ashby, at the age of 68, for many years a hotel proprietor in this city.

SEPTEMBER 30.—Charles L. Wheaton, aged 71, an active business man of the 4th ward, of some local celebrity as a political manager of the Democratic faith.

OCTOBER 7.—Suddenly, of apoplexy, Charles P. Wood, aged 61. He was most widely known as the Treasurer of the Auburn Savings Bank, of which institution he was justly recognized as the father.

OCTOBER 19.—J. Lewis Grant, of apoplexy, at the age of 60. At the time of his death, Mr. Grant was Superintendent of the Auburn Water Works Co., although he was more widely known from his connection with railroad interests, having in the early part of his life, acted in the capacity of engineer, and subsequently as superintendent of several roads.

OCTOBER 27.—James Camp, aged 68. Mr. Camp was for many years engaged in the mercantile trade, was quiet, unassuming, and universally respected.

OCTOBER 30.—Suddenly, of apoplexy, P. Hamilton Myers, at the age of 66. Mr. Myers was a man of quite an extended literary reputation, his life being devoted to literary pursuits up to the time of his death. His best known work was a poem entitled "Ensenore," an Indian legend, the scene of which is laid upon Owasco Lake. He was remarkably genial, and in the serenity of his latter years, impressed me as quietly waiting for the summons to go to the loved ones who had preceded him to the "undiscovered country."

NOVEMBER 25th.—Edward C. Marvine, aged about 40.

DECEMBER 11th.—At Glasgow, Scotland, Henry Wells of Aurora, at the age of 73. Mr. Wells was known as one of the fathers of the express business in this country.

DECEMBER 16th.—James A. Suydam, at the age of 49.

JANUARY 14, 1879.—Charles P. Williams, at the age of 57. Mr. Williams was widely known and respected in our business community, and was for many years closely identified with the educational interests of the city.

JANUARY 19th.—Suddenly, of apoplexy, William Highriter, at the age of 67. Mr. Highriter was long a resident of the city, and well known, from his connection with the hat store of the late L. V. Keyes.

JANUARY 24th.—Suddenly, of apoplexy, David S. Titus, at the age of 77. Mr. Titus was a prosperous and prominent farmer, of the town of Aurelius, had been a member of Assembly, and had held other positions of trust.

FEBRUARY 5th.—At Weedsport, Henry R. Filley, at the age of 82. Mr. Filley had represented his District in the State Assembly, and for many years previous to his death, was a Justice of the Peace in his town.

FEBRUARY 7th.—At Rochester, Rev. Dr. M. J. Loughlin, aged 44, for many years pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in this city, and during whose pastorate the church edifice on Clark street was erected.

I may add to the list, the name of Major Nicholas B. S. Eldred, who died July 3rd, by a pistol shot from his own hand. Major Eldred was about 52 years of age, and for many years had been a great sufferer from disease, which dethroned his reason, and in a moment of insanity he ended his life. Also, the name of Dea-

con Lewis L. Smith, who on the 10th of December put an end to his own life, while temporarily insane, at the age of 64.

I shall be pardoned if I yield to the promptings of personal friendship, to record the death of Peter Schyndt, on the 13th of June, at the age of 55. As might be inferred from his name, Peter was of Dutch ancestry, if not a native of the land of dykes and canals, of tulips and hyacinths. He was one of the five hundred thousand more who responded to the call of Father Abraham during the late war, in which he served faithfully to the close, and was honorably discharged. I think he was never in an important battle—he was too good-natured to fight—but how many battles his presence prevented will never be known. He might be classed as of the preventive, rather than of the curative army. As characteristic of the man, I note the incident of his enlistment, to effect which, he was required to affix his sign manual to five enlistment papers. He was not a facile penman, and it was with infinite effort and strange facial contortions that he succeeded in signing three of the papers, when with a long breath he settled back in his chair, and with an air of determination, mingled with indifference as to whether the war should be prosecuted or not, and still with a roguish twinkle in his eye, he exclaimed "*I writes no more till I gits reshted.*" Poor Peter, he is taking his long rest, and I suppose some household is sadder for his absence, but the ripple which he made upon the river of life, will soon reach the shore of the little haven which was the scene of his career.

In the latter part of November, the exact date not recorded, but supposed to be about the 27th, William Turner died. The family record is silent as to the date of his advent here upon earth, but there is slender evidence, strengthened by his appearance during his latter days, that he was 87 years of age. Mr. Turner was of African ancestry, and bore ample evidence of the purity of his descent. I first knew him as doing odd

jobs at sawing wood; subsequently, when King Anthracite invaded our homes, he accepted the situation, and changed his vocation to carrying up coal and blacking stoves. In the refreshing days of house-cleaning, he was indispensable as white-washer. Later on, he was charged with the responsible duty of lighting the street lamps, and often have I seen him burst out from the darkness, by the lighting of a lamp, appearing like an Egyptian statue, the only thing the light would not illumine. As his strength declined with advancing years, he abandoned all active employment, and relied upon extraneous aid to supply his few wants. I remember him most vividly of late, trudging along home at evening, staff in hand, in earnest conversation with himself, which usually ceased for a moment to respond to my salutation, and was at once resumed. I record his death more particularly because I have heard it questioned whether negroes ever die. They seem to go off somewhere—fade out from community, but the death of one is rarely chronicled.

I may add the name of John VanNess, who died January 13. Mr. VanNess was a Pyrotechnist of some note, and the boy of thirty years ago regarded him with awe, as the maker of sky-rockets and wheels and snakes and Roman candles and the like concomitants of the celebration of the anniversary of our national independence. His age may have been 65, although, being thin, sallow, wiry, a decade made as little impress upon his physique as a single year upon the average man. He was prosperous in early days, but with the decline in patriotic enthusiasm, his business dwindled. Added to this, he was, several times in the prosecution of his craft, blown up, "hoist by his own petard," to his pecuniary detriment. Wedded to his vocation, he disdained to change it with the changing times, and his means being exhausted, he accepted public benefaction and died at the County Poor House.

Of the more or less distinguished personages, outside our immediate community, whose careers have terminated within the period of which I write, I note the following :

APRIL 12th.—William M. Tweed died in Ludlow Street Jail, at the age of 55. There ended the most remarkable career of ignorance, shrewdness, unblushing and defiant knavery and corruption in the history of our country. Such a career would be deemed possible only in a republic, but the unreflecting will wonder that the same influences which made the career possible were swift to make it ignominious, and sure to cut it short.

APRIL 22nd.—William Orton, well known as the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, died at the age of 52.

MAY 1st.—At the age of 47, State Senator John Morrissey died—a noted instance of the possibilities of citizenship in a republic, and of the conservative influence of politics. Not every one, however, can advance from the prize ring, and the parlors of chance, to a seat in legislative halls. That one did, should not be accepted as conclusive evidence of the theory of natural selection.

MAY 12th.—Catharine E. Beecher, of some fame as an author-ess, died at the age of 77.

JUNE 3rd.—William F. Allen, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and distinguished as a jurist, died at the age of 70.

JUNE 12th.—William Cullen Bryant, the venerable and distinguished poet and journalist, died at the age of 84.

JUNE 26th.—Mercedes, the fair young Queen of Spain, whose marriage scarcely six months previous, I chronicled in my record, died at the age of 18.

JULY 3rd.—Dr. James C. Ayer, the father of patent medicines, died. His age is not given, but I doubt not that his longevity fully sustained the reputation of his medicines.

AUGUST 15th.—President J. H. Raymond, of Vassar College, died at the age of 64.

AUGUST 21st.—Maria, the deposed Queen of Spain, died at the age of 72.

OCTOBER 2nd.—The King of Burmah relinquished his earthly crown for an heavenly.

OCTOBER 8th.—Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, of Mexican and Confederate war fame, died.

NOVEMBER 26th.—Lyman Tremain of Albany, a prominent politician and counsellor-at-law, died, aged 60.

DECEMBER 14th.—Princess Alice Maud Mary, daughter of Queen Victoria, and Grand-Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt, died at the age of 34.

DECEMBER 19th.—Bayard Taylor, traveller, editor, poet, and U. S. Minister to Berlin, died, aged 54.

JANUARY 2nd, 1879.—Caleb Cushing, the man of "continental mind," died, aged 79.

FEBRUARY 2nd.—Richard Henry Dana, one of the old time poets, critics and essayists, whose pen had long been corroding in its rack, died at Boston, at the age of 93.

Had not my postscript already exceeded the limits of peaceful endurance, I should be pleased to enter more in detail into local matters, particularly the exploits of the 49th Regiment, in their summer encampment at Sheldrake; of their successful but unfortunate competition for the Nevada badge, which still hangs in blissful uncertainty, between them and the 48th Regi-

ment of Oswego; to recall the midnight discussions of the Common Council over the street committee imbroglio, and the eloquent constitutional debates over the Orchard street sewer, and many other items of equal importance, but with a brief glance at the outside world, I must close.

Of notable disasters, the following are more prominent:

APRIL 27th.—The mysterious Barclay street explosion occurred in New York, involving a loss of a million and a half of property, and several lives. The cause of the explosion, after the strictest investigation, remains a mystery.

MAY 2nd.—The great flour-mill explosion occurred at Minneapolis, by which five mills were destroyed, 17 lives lost, and a million and a half of property destroyed. The explosion is supposed to have been occasioned by the ignition of particles of flour dust in the process of manufacture.

MAY 31st.—Two German iron-clads collided, while maneuvering in the English channel, sinking one, and occasioning the loss of 270 lives.

SEPT. 3rd.—The excursion boat, "Princess Alice," was run into and sunk in the Thames river, and between 600 and 700 lives were lost.

Nov. 26th.—The ocean steamer "Pomerania," from New York for Havre and Bremen, was run into and sunk in the English channel, and some fifty lives were lost.

Of other events, I have noted the failure of the Bank of Glasgow, Scotland, on the 2nd of October, occasioning widespread pecuniary loss, and nearly creating a financial panic in Great Britain; the robbery of the Manhattan Savings Bank of New York, of nearly \$3,000,000 on Sunday morning, Oct. 27th, no part of which has been recovered; the stealing of the remains of the late A. T. Stewart, from his tomb in St. Mark's church-



yard, New York, Nov. 7th, no trace of which has yet been obtained.

In the political world, the notable feature has been the rise, progress, and decline of the Greenback and Labor Reform movement. One of its episodes, was the mission of the Sand Lot oracle, Denis Kearney, across the dark continent from San Francisco to Boston, to infuse the new political education into the effete organizations of the east. Denis unfortunately got at loggerheads with the press, and the newspapers unkindly "blew him out." His mission was not eminently successful, and the great agitator retraced his steps in disgust, and relighted himself, by starting a newspaper of his own in San Francisco. In the earlier part of the season, some success attended this movement, notably in Maine, where Mr. Hale was succeeded by a Greenback member of Congress, and a Democratic Governor was secured. Later, however, it seemed to pine and grow sickly. New York elected a Republican Judge of the Court of Appeals, and an overwhelmingly Republican Legislature, which returned Senator Conkling, without opposition, to the U. S. Senate. The feud between the Senator and the administration, over the New York Custom House appointments, was soon after terminated by the confirmation of the President's appointees. Congress has devoted its energies, mainly, to investigating committees, notably, the Potter committee, which has latterly been inquiring into the paternity of the celebrated "Cipher Dispatches." On the 21st of November, the U. S. paid to England, the five and one-half million dollars Fishery Award, after considerable diplomatic correspondence. The most noted political event, across the waters, was the resignation of the French President, Marshal MacMahon, on the 30th of January, and the election by the Assembly of his successor, M. Grévy, for seven years, without the usual revolution. A distressing famine has swept away countless victims in China, during the summer and autumn, while a virulent type of small

pox has decimated the population of a large district of Brazil. In the latter part of July, the yellow fever appeared in New Orleans, rapidly increasing and extending its ravages to Vicksburgh, Memphis, and adjacent localities. It was confined to the lower Mississippi Valley, but was terribly destructive until about the 23d of October, when it was checked by frost. Some 20,000 victims to the scourge bear witness to its severity. It is worthy of record, that the cities of the North contributed promptly and liberally to the relief of the sufferers, our own city contributing something over two thousand dollars. Late in the season, the black plague broke out in the southern part of Russia, and is making its way northward. A portion of the Russian army has been detailed to do picket duty, in preventing the further spreading of the disease, by confining the inhabitants to the infected district. The malady is said to be fatal in all cases of attack. It is presumed to be identical with the plague of olden times, and no effort is being spared to check its progress. In the late fall, diphtheria prevailed to an alarming extent in the neighboring village of Geneva, but was fortunately confined to that immediate locality.

I must not forget to mention the flying visit of the English Dean Stanley, to our country, in the latter part of September, because he enjoyed himself so thoroughly, during his short stay, and spoke so charitably, kindly and hopefully of us to his countrymen, when he returned home. Nor must I fail to note the pride of our neighbors across the border, at having a real live member of the royal family domiciled with them. The Marquis of Lorne, the new Governor-General of Canada, with his spouse, the Princess Louise, arrived at Halifax, on the 22nd of November, and the whole dominion was wild with joy. The Marchioness, who is the star actress of the cast, is winning the hearts of the people, by her simple ways and democratic notions, notwithstanding some harsh criticisms of the strict ceremony inflicted upon the early receptions of the royal

party. The mother country has been much disturbed during the season, by troubles among the laboring classes. Strikes among workmen have been of frequent occurrence, and in some instances have assumed threatening proportions. Happily they have thus far been adjusted without the serious consequences which sometimes attend such uprisings. A mania for regicide seems to have prevailed in the old world. Twice has the life of the Emperor William of Germany been attempted, and the Kings of Italy and Spain, and the Emperor Joseph of Austria, have each been the subject of attack, but all have fortunately escaped without serious injury.

The great Paris Exposition, which opened on the 1st of May, has occupied the attention of European visitors during the summer, and may be classed as a success as world's fairs go. It is gratifying to know that each of the different varieties of sewing machines, and all the pianos exhibited, succeeded as usual in securing the highest award for excellence. This will be satisfactory to those who are owners of sewing machines or pianos, as they will content themselves without change, but it will be terribly perplexing to those who are about to purchase, and seek to "get the best."

When my record closed, the war between Russia and Turkey was near its termination. The Russian army was before the Turkish capital, and a treaty of peace between the belligerents was effected, which was unsatisfactory to England, who regarded with distrust the approach of Russian sway towards her Asiatic dependencies. After considerable bull-doing on the part of England, backed by Austria, and no little diplomacy on the part of Germany, a European Congress was agreed upon, which assembled at Berlin, June 13, and continued in session just one month. As a result of its deliberations, nearly all the white meat of Turkey in Europe was apportioned between Russia and Austria, while the minor powers interested were compelled to content themselves with wings and drumsticks. In the melee,

England grabbed the Island of Cyprus, which she has since been negotiating to purchase.

Peace once more prevailed among the nations, until, in November, England declared war against Afghanistan, and has found an easy conquest of the barbarous natives. The country is regarded important, as affording an approach for Russia to India, and will doubtless be held in such way by England as will best subserve her Eastern interests. Since the winter opened the Zulus of South Africa have become fractious, and have involved England in another war. It will doubtless be of short duration, except as a kind of border warfare—something like the Indian wars, which keep our standing army kiting backwards and forwards over the mountains of the West every summer—as the Zulus are not particularly rich in resources for a war with such a power as England.

Gen. Grant has continued his saunterings through the old world, enjoying the hospitalities of the nobility, congratulating the Czar of all the Russias over his victories, at St. Petersburg, and condoling with the young King of Spain in his bereavement, at Madrid. He was made a citizen of Dublin, on his visit to the capital of the Emerald Isle, and might now rejoice in being a Native American Irishman, had not Cork indignantly refused to endorse the action of Dublin. Gen. Grant had said or done something or left something unsaid or undone, sometime during his career, which was construed as subversive of the interests, or humbling to the pride of the city, which is presumably the guardian of the entrance to the Demijohn of Erin, and Cork uncorked her vials of wrath upon the General, by declining to tender him the freedom of the city. So the citizen soldier resorted to his old tactics of flanking the enemy, turned his face Mecca-ward, and silently sailed away over eastern seas on his homeward way by the Golden Gate. He is doubtless, by this, mingling the perfumes of his Havana with the fragrance of the Souchong or Bohea of Canton, or discussing in pigeon English

the capacity for resistance of the great Chinese wall, with some mandarin at Peking.

To return once more, from my wanderings, nearer home: on the 7th of January, the State Legislature ensconced itself in its quarters in the new capital building, at Albany. On the evening of that day, the citizens of Albany gave a reception in honor of the event, at the new building, which was a success as to numbers, notwithstanding the absence of many who had been invited, but who were kept away by the railroad blockade. The new building is said to be complete in all its appointments, and gorgeous even, in its finishings, and if legislation is not rose-tinted and lemon-scented in future, it will be no fault of the legislative halls.

At 12 o'clock 29 minutes, noon, on the 17th day of December last, Mr. C. Gimbernat, of No. 60 Exchange Place, sold to Mr. P. Gillet, No. 16 New street, at the gold department of the Stock Exchange, New York, \$10,000 gold, at par. I am particular in giving these gentlemen the honor of the transaction, for I assume it to have been in good faith, as it is the first time in 16 years, that gold has, officially, been sold at par. Should it be thought advisable to erect a monument to commemorate the transaction, I should counsel placing Mr. Gimbernat's name a little higher up than Mr. Gillet's, both for convenience, and because Mr. Gimbernat took the chances of sacrificing a sixteenth per cent. to establish the credit of government. January 1, 1862, gold was quoted at 102; in the summer of 1864, it ran up to 285, from which point it gradually declined, until the transaction above detailed. The official resumption of specie payment took place January 1. It is astonishing with what complacency the public accepted the situation. The citizen who draws his check for five dollars, with commendable regard for the safety of the national treasury, and with calm indifference as to his personal pecuniary safety, says he will take bills, as gold is so inconvenient for business transactions.

The feeling seems to be, that gold is mainly useful to hoard up in old stockings, or for Captain Kidds to bury in hidden nooks upon the seashore. Had the public accepted Mr. Greeley's apothegm, that "the way to resume is to resume," as it might have done a decade since, I should not have had this item for my record.

But I must bring my wandering notes to a close. As I have been collecting the incidents which I have herein embodied, I seem as one who has been gathering shells upon the seashore. Sauntering along the thickly strewn strand, I have picked up here and there a shell, but I realize how many I have left untouched, many of them doubtless of more value than those I have gathered, but the collection as I have made it, my dear doctor, I place in your hands—nothing but shells.

B. B. SNOW,  
*Historiographer.*

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